

# Rotary District 7450

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL/  
MAY  
2021



## Spring Has Sprung! Let's Explore Opportunities Together.

A new season is upon us: Spring. Such a glorious time of year! We start to see new growth and rebirth of living things around us. This season brings increased warmth and vibrant colors back into view. I, for one, enjoy when my End Polio Now tulip bulbs open to display their beauty. It brings a new vision and rejuvenation to our world. It opens up an opportunity to explore what surrounds us.

Another season is upon us as well: District Conference season! If you are unaware, a District Conference is an event held by all Rotary Districts (time of the year may vary) across the globe, to bring together members of the District to inspire greater involvement with Rotary, strengthen existing relationships, forge new partnerships and showcase the impact, outreach, and goodwill of Rotary in the world. This year, we had to think differently about the District Conference than we have in the past.

The original plan for this year's District Conference, DisCon2021, was as a Tri-District Conference to be held at the Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos. We were joining forces with Districts 7390 & 7430 to bring you an inspiring weekend of fun, fellowship, family and Rotary. However, in the interest of the safety and wellbeing of all concerned, the decision was made to transform DisCon2021 into an all virtual event. You can read more about DisCon2021 later in this edition of the Rotary District 7450 Newsletter.

There are two aspects of DisCon2021 that I want to direct your focus on. First, we are planning for a day of service on Saturday, May 1, 2021, between 1 & 5 pm. I'm encouraging each of our clubs to plan a safe service project for your members -- or jointly with other clubs around you -- for a day of Rotarians in Action. Additionally, we will coordinate efforts of service projects happening so Rotarians can also participate.

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### Newsroom Staff

Paul Quintavalla

Kristine Pongras

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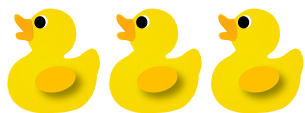
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The second is our District session on Sunday, May 2, between 8:30 and 11 am. This is a separate virtual session just for our District and will have a separate registration for ALL our Rotarians to attend. I encourage you to mark your calendars to help us get our ducks in a row. There will be more information coming to your email soon.

The DisCon2021 planning committee has been working diligently to bring to you, our Rotarians, the value and experience you would normally get from an in person conference, all from the comfort of your own home. We've created an exciting weekend which will allow you to connect with old friends and meet new Rotarians from our three district areas. Each District Conference I have attended since becoming a Rotarian has been an enlightening, exciting and unique experience, and DisCon2021 will prove to be the same for you. Join me as we set out exploring new opportunities together at DisCon2021, April 30, May 1 & 2, 2021.

Yours in Service,  
Kevin M. Katarynick  
District Governor 2020 - 2021



*My first District Conference, 2014 (PDG Blazey). Pictured with me is John T. Capps, Charter President of the Rotary Club of Morehead City-Noon, and during 1985-86 served as District 7730 Governor in Eastern North Carolina.*

## A New Kind of Club is Coming

The Rotary Eco Club of SEPA is a new environmentally focused endeavor within District 7450. After taking an initial survey of current District members, the planning committee received wonderful results! Overall, we received 55 survey responses, with 60% of survey participants responding as "very interested" or "interested" in learning more about the club. Out of an array of issues, the two most important responses were air pollution and climate change.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Rotary Eco-Club can email -  
Kate Johnston at [Katherine.rita.johnston@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.rita.johnston@gmail.com)  
Matthew Breidenstein at [matthewbreidenstein@gmail.com](mailto:matthewbreidenstein@gmail.com)





## Renee DeCoskey Nominated District Governor 2023-2024

The District Nominating Committee, chaired by PDG Dawn deFuria, announced its selection of Renee DeCoskey to be the District Governor for 2023-24.

Renee joined the Conshohocken Plymouth Whitemarsh Rotary Club in 2013, served two terms as club president, and is currently club secretary. For the past three years, she has served as the Assistant Governor for Area 4, and also currently chairs the District Public Image Committee.

In addition to her leadership roles within the district, Renee is a member of the District Membership Committee and is helping to plan fun and fellowship activities for the upcoming virtual District Conference. She is also a Sustaining Member of the Rotary Foundation.

When asked how she would like to see the district grow, she said that she hopes to see more of a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as sustained public image and brand awareness campaigns, and the creation of more cause-based clubs.

Renee, who is originally from Hollidaysburg, a small town in Western-Central Pennsylvania, joined the CPW Rotary as a way to make friends and be involved when she was new to the area, and says what she found was her “family away from home.” She wants everyone to find a similar sense of belonging in the organization and believes there is room for everyone to pursue their passions and interests with Rotary, be they big or small.

“I want to be cognizant of the fact that Rotarians have families and jobs and lives outside of Rotary, and that we have to do our best to accommodate every level of interest and participation if we hope to gain and retain new members,” she said. “We need to make room at the table for more voices and perspectives to be part of the conversation, and I’m excited for the opportunity to help lead the district in doing so.”

Renee graduated from Susquehanna University in 2005 with a B.A. in English and minors in writing and secondary education. She earned an M.A. in English (Writing and Literature) from George Mason University in 2009. After teaching high school English for several years, she transitioned to a career in digital publishing and has been the Managing Editor of Business2Community.com since 2011. When she’s not doing some kind of Rotary activity, she enjoys reading, writing, knitting, obsessing over her dog Macy, and imparting lots of “cool, fun aunt” wisdom upon her 6- and 8-year-old nephews -- especially when it involves beating them at Mario Kart.

## Rotary Acronyms

- PDG – Past District Governor
- DG - District Governor: Serves for one year July through June
- DGE – District Governor-elect: The year prior to becoming DG
- DGN – District Governor Nominee: The year prior to becoming DGE
- DGNE – District Governor Nominee-elect: The period of time prior to becoming DGN



# 2021 District Conference



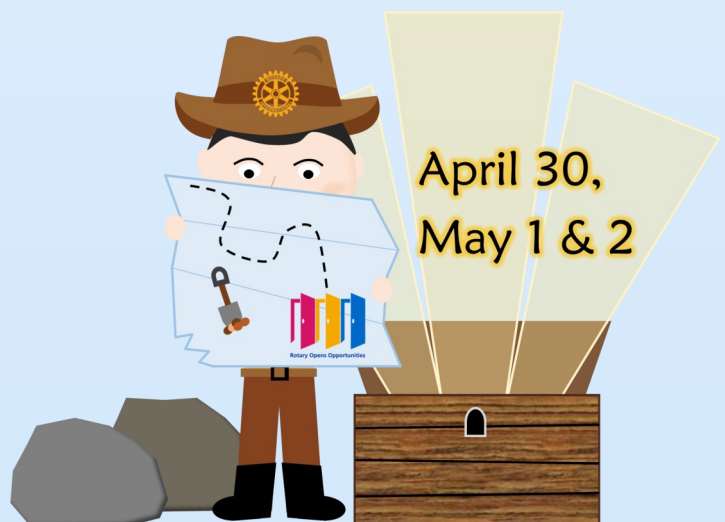
I am excited to be your guide as we set out exploring new opportunities together at the **2021 Virtual Tri-District Conference on April 30, May 1 & 2, 2021**. Our path will take us into a world of leadership, learning, fellowship and fun! *All from the comfort of your own home!*

The schedule is **FULL** of incredible presentations from local and internationally known speakers on a wide variety of topics. The schedule is available [HERE](#)

This exciting adventure will also include the opportunity to join with fellow Rotarians, safely, in service to our communities! **Saturday afternoon we are asking every club - over 120 clubs across the three districts - to please consider hosting a safe service project or collaborating with other clubs in your area, and to encourage club members to participate.** Our District will be coordinating efforts to track available projects to participate in also. Imagine Rotary service happening in 120 communities across southern Pennsylvania and, imagine how our communities will react as we inundate social media with pictures and videos of **Rotarians in Action** on that day.

There will be fun and fellowship as well. Join together with your family at home and virtually with other Rotarians for our evening events of trivia, bingo, entertainment and other fellowship at our Rotary Foundation Fundraiser. We will also be hosting a Virtual Hall of Friendship filled with service projects, fellowships, humanitarian service groups, business and MORE!

**Visit the [website](#) to register. Register by April 4th to receive a FREE "Day of Service" T-shirt! Like us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date on Speakers, Presentations, and Events!**





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# Doing More With Less

Like all clubs, the Greater West Chester Sunrise Rotary Club saw the limitations of just having Zoom meetings during this period of isolation. To enhance their members' social interactions, Bob Eaves, President-elect did something about it. He organized a book club that transitioned to online in March and has continued through the pandemic to *Book Club 2021*. Leveraging this idea, Bill Leber and David Sweet started an open forum discussion program called *Video Discussions 2021*. Each group convenes once a month and all are welcome. Here is how they work:

## Book Club 2021

The program's leader is Robert Eaves. He accepts recommendations from individuals who agree to lead the discussion. He then assigns the book and the date and time for discussion. These are evening meetings so as to avoid interfering with anyone's workday and have time for conversation. Some past and future readings are as follows:

- Boys in the Boat: *Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown. Led by Nancy Paist-Riches
- The Splendid and the Vile: *A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz* by Erik Larson. Led by Janet Colliton
- Wild Swans: *Three Daughters of China* by Jung Chang. Led by Judy Curtin
- Rising Tide by John M. Barry. Led by Roger Tellefsen

## Video Discussions 2021

Bill Leber organizes the Video Discussions 2021 program and coordinates with members who lead the discussions. Each leader selects a topic of interest and selects one or more short videos from TED TALKS, YouTube, or other source for the group to view. He/she then monitors the discussion on the subject. Some examples follow.

- Education. Led by Rick Stevenson
- Eugenics. Led by Bob Streitel
- Pros and cons of stem cell research. Led by Bob Eaves
- Wealth and income inequality. Led by Roger Tellefsen



# Staying Valuable During the Pandemic

The West Chester Passport Club (RotaryPassportWC.org) is the only one of its kind in the region. Passport clubs differ from traditional Rotary clubs in that they are totally devoted to providing community services. Members conduct only four business meetings each year and enjoy six social meetings. Most of their time is devoted to providing hands-on service.

The club actively searches for service projects in their community such as Adopt-A-Highway clean-up, Crime Victims' Center Clean-up, and Ronald McDonald House. They also pitch-in to assist fellow Rotary clubs with their service projects and fundraisers.

Finding service projects during the pandemic has been particularly challenging but not insurmountable. Here are just a few of their accomplishments:

- Bell ringing for the Salvation Army.
- Phone calls to seniors over 70 asking if they need assistance because of isolation. The elderly may have difficulty getting medications, food and such. Sometimes they don't know who to call for social services and problem solving. These Rotarians find the solutions.
- The SPCA needs people's used towels for general cleaning. Rotarians seek donations and deliver them.
- The Community Warehouse Project provides used household furnishings for people restarting their lives. Rotarians find donations, then pick up and deliver to the Warehouse, all while wearing face masks.
- Cases for Smiles – Rotarians sew colorful pillowcases with cartoon characters for children in cancer wards.



## New Members

**Sueellen Agostini**  
Rotary Club of Broomall

**Mary Fediw**  
Rotary Club of Media

**Christina Foster**  
Rotary Club of Langhorne

**Samantha Kranyak**  
Rotary Club of Kennett Square Light

**Warren Kuo**  
Rotary Club of Wayne

**Robert McCarron**  
Rotary Club of Philadelphia

**Alayne McNelis**  
Rotary Club of Broomall

**Jeanette McVeigh**  
Rotary Club of Langhorne

**James Schott**  
Rotary Club of Jenkintown

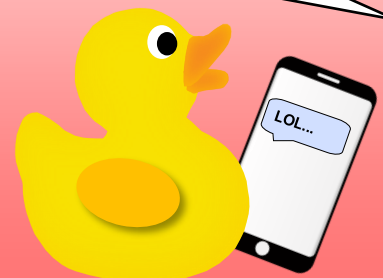
**Gilda Schwalb**  
Rotary Club of Wayne

**Lynn Shultz**  
Rotary Club of Broomall



My friend David had his ID stolen...

Now he's just DAV.



# Volunteering – A Family Affair



Melissa Baxter, a member of the Rotary Club of West Chester, and her husband, Aaron, not only believe in volunteering themselves, but involve their children as often as possible. For them, volunteering is a family affair.

When Melissa begins making Shepherd's Pie for the St. Agnes Day Room, her children often jump in to help. "Eight-year-old Andrew and six-year-old Mary like to use the mixer, and Andrew will help peel carrots," said Baxter. "However, Mary thinks peas are gross, so she will skip out when they come into play. However, Mary enjoys baking, and is really good at making cupcakes and lemon cookies. Twelve-year-old Ellie will help with just about anything," she explains.

Melissa got involved with St. Agnes Day Room about seven years ago because of her mother. "Mom started volunteering, and seemed to really enjoy it, until she got sick and later, passed," explained Melissa. "I thought it would be a good way to carry on the memory of my mother, and it did, but it grew into more than just that. I enjoy cooking for others, and seeing the children, individuals and families when I delivered my hot dish, knowing that I was helping even in a small way, brought me real joy. And the other volunteers at the Day Room are so friendly and kind, it's a pleasure to share in their mission," she added.

## Oxford Honors the Oxford Rotary Club

On March 17, the Rotary Club of Oxford was honored with the Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce Organization of the Year Award. Community members nominate a Business, Organization and Citizen of the Year and the Chamber selects award recipients each year.

Due to Covid-19, the Dinner Dance style gala was transitioned to a surprise event at the club's March meeting. The Rotary Club of Oxford was nominated by Courtney Messick Jayne of Oxford, whose grandfather was a member for 38 years. Courtney highlighted the Rotary's 95<sup>th</sup> year commitment to our community through projects including clean up days, student of the month, Interact and Rotaract clubs, partnerships and their leadership with the Oxford Memorial Park Inclusive Playground. Our community is better because of the Rotary Club!



### *In Memoriam*

*We'd like to honor the following Rotarians for their dedicated service:*

**Edith Hilton**

The Rotary Club of Chester

**Lester Rosenwinkel**

The Rotary Club of Chestnut Hill



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# Deep-Water Hand Pumps for Senegal



Dwight Leeper, a member of the International Committee of the Rotary Club of West Chester, and Sam Lowry, of the Downtown Rotary Club of Huntsville, Alabama, wrote a proposal requesting a Global Grant to provide Deep-Water Hand Pumps to improve the health and quality of life in five, small, rural communities in Senegal, West Africa. In January 2021, the West Chester club was awarded a \$131,215 Global Grant for the project!

The ultra-deep pumps (LifePump) are capable of operating more efficiently than hand pumps currently in use in Africa, going three times deeper, with a projected life span of 30 years. Pumps currently in operation don't reach potable water, resulting in villagers' drinking water from dirty runoff, mud puddles, and ponds that livestock waded through. Consequently, people

face chronic illnesses that prevent children from attending school, adults from working, and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

To assure sustainability and measurable outcomes, the men engaged the Rotary Club of Dakar-Soliel, Senegal, as partners in the project. Along with training on maintenance, the grant provides for education in proper water usage, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The pumps being purchased for Senegal are produced by Design Outreach, a non-profit company that manufactures hand pumps that go deeper and are easy enough to be operated by a child.

The Rotarians also engaged Partners for Global Health (PGW), an organization that collects used and overages of medical supplies for needy countries. PGW will provide transportation for Leeper and Lowry when they go to Senegal, hopefully in May, COVID permitting.

"Working with the government of Senegal, the Office of Rural Bore Holes, and the Office of Rural Drilling, we will demonstrate to the Senegalese we have a better mousetrap," said Leeper. "The Senegalese government has funds that could be invested in additional pumps in local communities. With 80 million refugees, whose numbers may double in the coming years and reduce arable land, there are opportunities to reach out to Zimbabwe and Uganda, which are in need of clean water also," he added.

The grant requires \$80,000 in matching funds, so the West Chester club and members have donated \$5,250 to the three year project; Rotary District 7450, has contributed \$5,000. Contributions have also been made by Bank of America and Merrill Lynch. Companies, organizations and individuals interested in donating to the project can contact Leeper at 908-400-9431 or [dwight.leeper@gmail.com](mailto:dwight.leeper@gmail.com). Donations made before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 will be matched 50% by Rotary International (RI). With RI's matching, a donation of \$5,000 will cover the full cost of pump hardware for an entire village.



"Being awarded the Global Grant is like grabbing the brass ring of Rotary," said Leeper.



# Rotary Fellowships

Many Rotarians have not heard about Rotary Fellowships, a benefit of Rotary worth knowing about. So, let's begin at the beginning.

There are Rotarians who have personal interests and would like to know other Rotarians with interests in common. Interests such as wine appreciation, fishing, motorcycles, cruising, doll collecting, skiing and a hundred more. Rotary provides a platform for these Rotarians to join in a Fellowship and communicate through the internet. Think of it as an Internet Club of Rotarians. Here's the cool part: you get to know people like you across the country and around the world! Being part of a Fellowship is a fun way to make friends, expand your knowledge of a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. View the different Rotary Fellowships [HERE](#). Have fun!



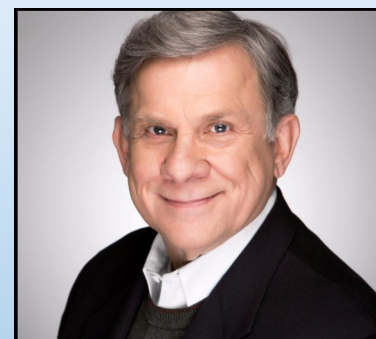
**Yoga & Meditation Fellowship**  
**Where Wellness meets Happiness**

## Sharing the Speaker

*We've been talking about the benefits of sharing speakers virtually and heard several good stories. This is one of them.*

When the Rotary Club of Phoenixville booked a prominent speaker, they didn't hesitate to let other clubs know and invite them to attend. And attend they did. Six clubs, three public libraries, and a club in Cincinnati joined their meeting. The noon time starting hour worked well, and the speaker respected everyone's need to finish-up and get back to work.

The speaker was Mr. Gerry Lantz of Philadelphia. He is a marketing consultant whose clients are located throughout the mid-Atlantic region. The



theme of his address was, *Stories That Work*. The core of his dissertation is that all businesses and organizations have a story to tell that differentiates it from competitors. One must develop and tell that unique story that will be remembered by clients. Don't focus on what you do --highlight what happens as a result of what you do! Check out his website for more information. [www.storiesthatwork.com](http://www.storiesthatwork.com)

**Stories**  
**that Work**  
Energizing Brands and Business

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# Captain Rob Flyin' High

When he was graduated from the Air Force Academy with a BS in biology, Rob was stepping into a world he knew well from his father. His family were dairy farmers in Michigan, but his dad had served as a pilot of a B-26 Marauder on D-Day and throughout World War II. The B-26 was a fast mid-range bomber, used across Europe during the war and he had lots of stories to tell. After graduation, Rob also became a pilot and was assigned F-4 Phantom II fighters in Korea. He soon rose to the rank of Captain and served as a flight instructor.

Rob's interest in the combination of technology and medicine drew him out of the Air Force and into a graduate program in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins. It was this change of direction that would bring him to work at the cutting edge of medical technology throughout his professional career.

After graduation, Rob joined the team for General Electric's development of the current 'hot topic' in medical imaging – Magnetic Resonance (MRI). Over his 17 years there, he worked with research centers around the world to develop diagnostic imaging technology, MR imaging for the operating room, surgical instruments and other techniques using MRI.



Later, Rob's entrepreneurial spirit took him to start-up companies helping to develop entirely new medical devices. His contribution was primarily in the areas of engineering, clinical trials and working with FDA to get these products on the market. Along the way he took a class in medical research and later married his instructor, Robin! They've been married for 20+ years and raised 3 children.

In 2006 one of his companies brought him to Chadds Ford. His last position before retirement was with Johnson & Johnson as the Global Head of Regulatory Affairs for Diabetes Care.

In 2007, Rob joined the Longwood Rotary Club, and said, "I had logged about four-million air miles traveling for 25 years and really wanted to settle down and be a part of a community. Rotary looked like a great way to do that, so I found a Club near me and walked up to the front door on a Thursday morning. Dave Thompson grabbed the door with one hand, and me with the other and said *Welcome to Longwood Rotary!* and I never left." Rob is an active member and is currently the President Elect. Today, he operates a consulting business from his home to help new medical device companies make their start in the industry. Rob has been a key member of the Youth Exchange Program in the District for several years; he and Robin have hosted several exchange students and their daughter spent a year as an Outbound in Brazil. "Youth Exchange is Rotary's most successful international peace program. Until last year we had had about 10 Inbounds and Outbounds each year from this District. Seeing the transformation in kids when they return is remarkable; the self-confidence, language skills, maturity, international outlook...they look at the world with a wholly different perspective."

In his free time, Rob is still a pilot and a member of *Angel Flight*. He and fellow pilots fly people who cannot afford transportation to medical appointments in distant cities.

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# Broomall Rotary Helps Casa Kids Reduce Stress

A speaker from CASA, (Youth Advocates of Delaware and Chester Counties), recently addressed the Broomall Rotary Club. She told about their support to abused and neglected children ages three and above who are in the court system. CASA volunteers work to improve children's well-being and help them reach a permanent home. CASA is supported by many Rotary clubs in the district.

In a follow-up conversation, club President Craig Galante learned of the added stress caused by conditions of the pandemic. As living conditions worsened and schools closed, children suffered increasing anxiety caused by uncertainty. Stress is not a hardship customarily addressed by Rotary, but this was compelling. Craig was aware that meditation and yoga are being prescribed for adults and he had benefited from it in his own life. So, why not children?



"I figured something like meditation and yoga would help kids with anxiety, especially since they don't have a lot of outlets right now. I figured if it could help me, it can help these kids as well. The whole idea was trying to think of something positive that would benefit kids." Galante said.

Craig reached out to Gina Pawlik, owner of Positivity Yogis in Havertown. Together, they agreed to provide yoga sessions via Zoom as well as the equipment needed.

"When it comes to kids and their mental health, I told Craig I would do whatever I can," Gina said. "The original class size was 10 to 15 students in third grade and up. If we have to do more, then that's what we'll do. My hope for them is making sure that breath is their first cue," Pawlik said. She added, "Our society generally leans towards exhibiting anger and frustration when confronted with adversity. I want all my students' first instinct to be to take a breath."



Galante noted he thought one advantage of yoga is that you don't need a lot of space to do it, so it is practical for almost everyone. The Broomall Rotary Club provided each of the children with their own yoga mats, blocks and straps. It is also funding the ten online lessons focusing on meditation and basic yoga. The Rotary Foundation provided a District Matching Grant for the project.



# Rotary International President-Elect Addresses Our Club Presidents-Elect

Rotary International President Elect for 2021-2022, Shekhar Mehta, addressed our Presidents Elect Training Seminar in February. He used the opportunity to talk about his vision for strengthening and growing Rotary membership. Speaking from his home in Calcutta, India, he told of the challenges facing people in developing countries and how Rotarians are helping them. His inspirational stories were examples of the great humanitarian needs in the world and the contributions made by Rotarians.

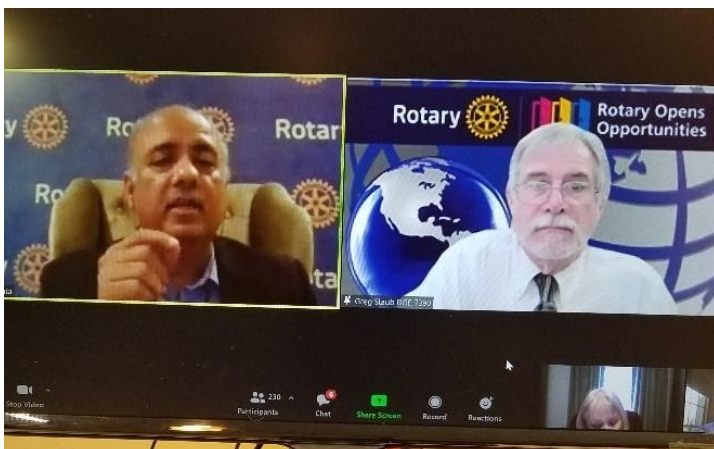
The RI President Elect's address was monitored by Greg Staub of the Hanover Rotary Club who moved the conversation to Rotary's future. Mr. Mehta commented that he watched Rotary membership stay at 1.2M members for as long as he has been in Rotary. Last year saw the largest growth in membership in history, but also the largest loss. There have been changes in Rotary policies that make membership more inviting and inclusive and Rotary will continue to evolve. The covid-19 pandemic has given us a leap forward in the use of virtual communications. He foresees hybrid club meetings as permanent and beneficial fixtures in our world. Cause clubs, such as Eco Clubs, Veterans Clubs, and Special Needs Children Clubs are growing in popularity and offer opportunities to attract new Rotarians. <https://www.rotary.org/en/clubs-made-order-clubs-cause-have-positive-effect>

Mr. Mehta has led an exemplary life of humanitarian work. Among his accomplishments are the following.:

- Constructed 500 homes for Tsunami survivors at Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Starting the Shelter Kit program in India which has served about 20 disasters distributing more than 15,000 Shelter Kits helping about 75,000 disaster victims.
- He initiated *Little Hearts a pediatric Heart Surgery Program. Through this it has done more than 2,500 heart surgeries for children from across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal & African Countries.*
- Conceptualized nationwide T-E-A-C-H a literacy program in India having reached out to more than 50,000 Schools and 15 million children. T-E-A-C-H is a holistic program in literacy. Rotary is working on the T-E-A-C-H Program with the Central Government and many State Governments. The Program has been replicated in Nepal & Pakistan.
- He helped take the E-learning Program to millions of children through the television channels of Government of India. He is the architect of the Rotary Total Literacy Program of India.
- He was Instrumental in setting up more than 15 Eye Hospitals across India serving nearly 50,000 eye operations each year.
- He started a scholarship program called UDAAN for marginalized children. Over the last 10 years, 1,000 scholarships have been given by his club.

- Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national call. He has helped set up 6000 rural toilets benefitting 30,000 people.

- Shekhar Mehta is spearheading an India-wide project, in collaboration with the Government of India, in the areas of Water, Sanitation, Literacy, Healthcare, Environment and Disaster Management. The result of these programs, he professes, will be "Rotary's Role in Nation Building in India".





# World Immunization Week

During the last week of April, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and global public health partners recognize World Immunization Week – a time dedicated to promoting the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against diseases and death. CDC's Global Immunization Division (GID) leads the U.S. Government's efforts in what is widely recognized as one of the most effective of public health missions – vaccination against preventable diseases – a coordinated global mission that saves millions of lives every year.



This year's theme, **#VaccinesWork for All**, emphasizes the importance of protecting people with vaccines throughout their lifespan and how society can benefit as we collectively pursue this goal.

## Successfully Attracting New Members

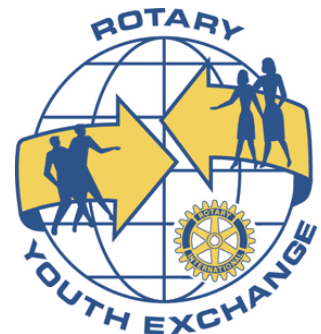


Another prominent speaker at the Presidents-Elect Training Seminar was DG Tom Gump of the Edina/Morningside, Minnesota Rotary Club. Tom has promoted unique ways to better serve communities and bring new members to Rotary. His focus has been to create cause clubs. Started by Rotarians, the typical cause club membership is 88% new Rotarians.

He has founded four new clubs, written for Rotarian Magazine and lectures across the country. An understanding of the structure and benefits is available on this [website](#).

## Student Exchange Canceled, Again

The program for international student exchange has been canceled for 2021, according to ESSEX (Eastern States Student Exchange), the governing body. "That is really unfortunate to hear – but certainly not unexpected. Youth Exchange is Rotary's most successful international peace program, and to have it stopped for another year is really a bad thing," said committee chair Donna Henry. "What a loss for the kids, Rotary, and international cooperation in general."



# One Service Community



In 2018 the Longwood Rotary Club conducted a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) with over 35 community leaders. The result of that assessment was long term Club approved projects in Pre K Education, Affordable Housing, and Transportation. In addition to its service projects Longwood started the journey to become a solutions club with projects that would take a committed effort over 3-5 years to achieve significant results. The Longwood Club also realized that to be able to make the desired impact in the communities in support of these needs (needs that are regional not just local) it could not go forward alone. So, it created the *ONE SERVICE COMMUNITY*

*INITIATIVE* that would bring together others in the region with similar service objectives.

It was determined there are five Rotary Clubs, three Lions Clubs, and a Chamber of Commerce all with community service as their mission and a total of over 600 members. “What would happen if we changed the way we looked at these nine organizations and looked at them as a single service community?” Asked club president Bob Curran. “Each organization makes a difference. However, what would the difference be in Southern Chester County if we worked together? What was needed to change was how we think.” He visited all eight organizations, and all agreed to coordinate their efforts.



The concept has been a success on several fronts, and more are being considered. An example is Longwood’s project to provide school bags and supplies to underprivileged children. Before One Community Service they gave 435 bags/supplies. Now there is the post COVID potential of 1500 bookbags.



## District 7450 Community Bulletin

### Paper Shredding Event

The Rotary Club of Great Valley is having a paper shredding event Saturday, May 1st, from 9-12 at the People’s Pantry behind:

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
40 Lancaster Avenue  
Malvern, PA 19355  
Dellis817@gmail.com

Benefits The People’s Pantry, Chester County Food Bank,  
and House of Sparrow



Click [HERE](#) to post your Club’s  
Online or In Person Event for  
June/July