

Rotary Leadership Institute Northeast America

Newsletter



Message from our new RLI NEA Chair -- PDG Mike McCarthy

Happy RLI NEA New Year!!

September marks the start of a new academic year for many, including RLI! District Site Chairs and Regional Vice Chairs have a full schedule of in-person events planned. Those open for registration are posted on the RLI-NEA site (rlinea.org). The first event will be in Verona, NY, on September 28th. Several other events will be posted soon and planning for virtual sessions is also in the mix.

Speaking of the mix, the impact of the pandemic continues to be felt. We were forced to adapt (which you did admirably!) to test new channels to continue the mission of:

Strengthening and empowering Rotary and Rotaract Club members...

To strengthen their Clubs...

To better serve their communities, and our world!

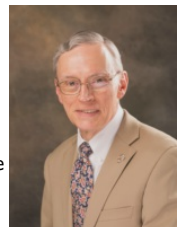
We learned a lot and continue to improve the experience for participants and facilitators alike. We have reinforced the irreplaceable value that comes from being able to have live discussions which enhance the learning experience.

The cost of participating continues to be a factor which may deter attendance. Facilities play a big role there, but we have also taken steps to reduce the cost of materials. The proliferation of electronic devices and the improvement of connectivity has allowed us to rely on digital versions of the course curriculum. This has greatly simplified logistics and carries the added benefit of allowing us to update the curriculum more frequently to reflect the changes in our Rotary world and the challenges our Clubs face.

Speaking of updating curriculum, we have a new Graduate course for this year: **Capturing the Value of Our Impact** . (See article below)

It will focus on the importance of understanding and communicating the impact our service has on our communities, how that impact can be measured, and how to deal with the change that may be necessary, in our thinking and our communication, to have our message stand out.

Rotary's long tradition was to be quiet about the good we did. Partners and supporters, and prospective members, now want to know how effective their contribution toward meeting a stated goal will be.



meeting a stated goal will be.

So hereâ€™s the call to action:

As this Rotary year is in progress, look ahead to prepare those who are following you. Open them to the fuller world of Rotary by having them participate in an RLI session (or two!), in person and virtual, this year. Whatever their role, they will be more confident and their Clubs will be stronger!

Thanks for being part of RLI NEA,

Mike McCarthy, *Chair*

Message from our Executive Director Deb Glisson

To begin this message, I will share some stats from our 2023-2024 RLI-NEA learning yearâ€¦..

- We held 15 RLI-NEA events throughout Northeast America.
- Those events occurred from September 16, 2023, through April 13, 2024.
- The facilitated learning involved the participation of 214 Part 1 level Rotarians, 106 Part 2 level Rotarians, 46 Part 3 level Rotarians, and 53 Graduate level Rotarians.
- Thirty-two Rotarians were newly indoctrinated as RLI-NEA Faculty members.



Moving on to the 2024-2025 RLI-NEA learning year, I am quite pleased to announce that 5 events are currently open for registration. Those include:

- CNY Rotary District 7180 â€” Verona, NY â€” September 28, 2024
- Rotary District 7390 â€” Summerdale (Harrisburg), PA â€” October 12, 2024
- Rotary District 7120 â€” Rochester (Victor), NY â€” October 19, 2024
- Rotary District 7410 â€” Scranton (Wilkes-Barre), PA â€” October 26, 2024
- CNY Rotary District 7180 â€” Albany, NY â€” November 2, 2024

As many Rotarians know, Rotary International is moving its focus from teaching to learning. As a School District Administrator, I often asked teachers what they were teaching. I quickly followed that question with â€œWhat are your students learning?â€ Since its origination, RLI-NEA sessions have been focused on facilitated learning.

- Our faculty members have incorporated strategies and materials that provide differentiated learning opportunities. They analyze the groups they are working with and tailor their sessions to meet the learning needs of those in the sessions.
- Although our sessions are somewhat time-limited, faculty members strive to assist participants in experiencing learning competency throughout the sessions, rather than simply putting in seat time.
- Facilitators work toward personalizing the learning of the participants. They often pose questions that cause the participants to share their experiences and perspectives.
- Currently, graduate-level facilitators are beginning to move toward offering blended learning opportunities where participants are encouraged to engage with the Rotary International Learning Center's informative learning components. Thus, they arrive at their graduate-level sessions with some knowledge of the Rotary components connected with the Graduate Level learning topic. As in a flipped classroom, participants learn some content at home and apply that knowledge in their RLI-NEA session.
- As in the past, content delivery is designed in â€œpartsâ€. This modular curriculum design fosters learning to be built upon prior learning.
- Some components have been designed to allow for project-based learning. Participants are guided through hands-on, real-world Rotary projects and problem-solving.
- It is expected that all RLI-NEA facilitators will involve the participants in inquiry-based learning. Participants actively learn through questioning and exploration.
- All sessions involve participant-centered learning. The facilitators quickly gauge the needs and interests of their participants and guide those Rotarians through their active participation.

Now that you have a clearer notion of the how and why of our facilitated learning sessions, you should also understand that when you are in an RLI-NEA session, you will be engaged in your learning. You will be expected to speak, think, share, etc. You will be prompted to think, speak, share, and become more aware of several aspects of Rotary via the facilitated discussions in each session.

When Rotarians engage, they draw upon the learning of all of their fellow Rotarian participants and share their own knowledge with them. This cooperative learning approach, which might include talking with a small group or participating in a conversation with the entire session group results in a cooperative learning environment. The point is to see how others think and how they can help anchor learning.

As adult learners in the RLI-NEA event, participants are encouraged to:

- decide for themselves what is important to be learned.
- validate the information based on their beliefs and experiences.
- share their experiences, upon which they draw their viewpoints.
- expect that what they are learning can be immediately useful.
- recognize that they have the significant ability to serve as a knowledgeable resource to facilitators and fellow Rotarian learners.

Please step right up and register for a Rotary Leadership Institute learning experience!!!!

Deb
Deborah7150@gmail.com

Our Annual Meeting on Zoom August 16/17 approved New RLI NEA Officers and Site Chairs for 2024-25

At our Annual Meeting on Zoom on August 16th and 17th, (our first-ever on Zoom), the RLI NEA Board elected its new officers and approved new Regional Vice Chairs for this coming Rotary year. 35 RLI NEA Executive Officers, Vice Chairs, Regional Vice Chairs, Site Chairs, District Governors and Facilitators attended the Zoom meeting.

Immediate Past-Chair Gerald Gortner opened both the Executive Committee on Friday and the Annual Meeting (for all) on Saturday by thanking everyone for their efforts in the past year. Executive Director Deb Glisson shared her progress report on all the sessions, and reiterated what she needs before she can post our participating Districts' RLI sessions on DACdb for registration purposes.



In order to save money, the Board also discussed ending reimbursement of travel fees to and from RLI NEA Annual Meetings for Executive Officers, as we have done in the past. At its Winter Meeting, the Board will consider holding the Annual Meeting on Zoom in lieu of booking a hotel and incurring great costs for both food and rooms.

The Board approved an increase in the amount of dues to RLI NEA that participating Rotary Districts will pay from \$600 (in effect for the past six years) to \$700 (beginning in July of 2025). These costs are included in our expenses:

- 1) International RLI dues
- 2) Accounting services
- 3) Awards
- 4) Bank charges
- 5) Curriculum meetings
- 6) DACdb, RLI NEA internet and site registration and management fees
- 7) Credit card services and charges
- 8) Postage and mail
- 9) Printing and copying
- 10) Supplies and materials

This year's Keynote Speaker was PDG Tom Gump, aide to this year's RI President Stephanie Urchick and a long-time supporter of RLI throughout the world. (*See article below*).

Scroll down to find our new Executive Board Members and Regional Vice-Chairs.

PDG Mike McCarthy now assumes his role as Chair of RLI NEA, A Rotarian since 1997, Mike has served the Pottstown Club as Club President, Director and Youth Exchange Officer, and Rotary in a number of capacities, including District 7430 Governor (2009-10), DRFC (2011-15, 18-21) and ARRFC (2015-18). He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a Bequest Society member and is a facilitator for the Rotary Leadership Institute since 2010 and at PETS.



A Reading, PA, native, Mike's US Navy career focused on logistics and procurement. Following that, he returned to his roots, working on economic development matters and on business consulting, building teams to improve performance and valuing businesses. Mike is an active member of his community. He is a board member, and Past President, of the World Affairs Council of Greater Reading and is also a board member of Setebaid Services, Inc. He has taught Junior Achievement courses and serves in several capacities in his church. His wife Mary Anne (Bradford) is a retired civil engineer and PE. She is also a Paul Harris Fellow and Bequest Society member. She and Mike have six children and seven grandchildren. They reside in the Oley Valley, near Reading.

Keynote Speaker PDG Tom Gump, Aide to RIP Stephanie Urchick, discusses RI's Strategic Plan



Past District Governor Tom Gump, a member of the Edina, Minnesota Rotary Club, delivered our keynote speech at our Annual Meeting on August 17.

Using a Power Point, Tom reviewed RI's Strategic Plan: Increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participants' engagement in Rotary, and increase our ability to adapt. He stated that the purpose of the action plan was that we want Rotary to grow. We want to make the club experience special and that they want to belong to our clubs throughout the world. The purpose of this strategic plan is to make Rotary membership, which has certainly been challenged in the past few years, stronger. He stated that we, as Rotarians, need to adapt. Rotary is evolutionary but we need to have all of our Rotary members recognize the same goal.

Tom serves as Aide to Rotary International President 2024-25 Stephanie Urchick, and is also a member of Rotary's Membership Growth Committee (2022-25.) He is passionate about growing Rotary Membership through forming new Rotary and Rotaract clubs. He founded, co-founded, and helped to form and/or inspire more than a dozen clubs around the world and now helps others to do the same. Tom also helped form a Rotary Community Corps for Afghan Refugees, which serves hundreds of refugees in his area. He is a member of the Gold Level of Rotary's Membership Society of New Member Sponsors for bringing in more than 50 members into his club. He was also the winner of the Zones 28 and 32 Individual Membership Innovation Award. He served as an International Assembly Training Leader and has chaired his paired-zone institute. Tom led his district to become only the third district in the world to ever have all of its clubs designated as 100% Paul Harris Fellow Clubs.

Tom is a proud member of the Edina Morningside Rotary Club. His wife Catherine is a member of the Edina Noon Club; their son Andrew is a member of Interact at his high school. The Gump Family has hosted seven fabulous Rotary Young Exchange students.

You can review the Power Point (in PDF) by clicking here:

https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/780/assets/District%202490%20RLI_Growing%20Rotary%20thru%20using%20the%20Action%20Plan_11-28-2023.pdf

RLI NEA presents its two special awards during our Zoom Annual Meeting on September 17

**RLI NEA's 2023-24 Annual Awards Announced at our Zoom Annual Meeting:
Michael Carrier Wins RLI NEA's Outstanding Facilitator Award
PRIFD Michael McGovern Receives the Yvette Palmer Award**

During our Zoomed Annual Meeting on September 17th, PDG Norma Madayag-Reilly, this year's Awards Chair, announced this year's special winners.



The first award presented was to Michael Carrier, as the winner of this year's Outstanding Facilitator of the Year Award. Vice-Chair Elizabeth Cullen, who nominated Mike, noted that:

- Mike was always prepared for his sessions and was familiar with all parts of the RLI Curriculum.
- Liz noted that she has seen Mike in action and he gets everyone enthusiastically involved. Participants loved Mike's enthusiasm for Rotary.
- Mike used Power Point to emphasize discussion topics and his participants found his handouts helpful as well. Several participants noted that they had great discussions and learned all about Rotary, and that Mike gave great examples of what other clubs do.

- Mike was a great team player, attending all five pre-RLI meetings, even when he had to drive long distances.

- Demonstrating innovative techniques for learning and computer skills where applicable, including camera readiness and virtual adaptability with breakout rooms
- Receiving positive evaluations from class participants.

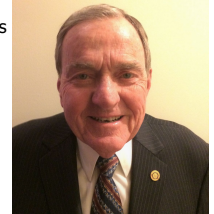
Our second award, the Yvette M. Palmer Award for Exceptional Service to Rotary Leadership Institute, was awarded to Past Rotary Director Michael McGovern, who served as our keynote speaker at our 2022 RLI NEA Annual Meeting.

PDG Toni McAndrew nominated Mike for this year's award, saying, "Michael has been active in RLI for over 20 years. Initially, he was recognized as an outstanding local and Zone-wide facilitator and then as Chair of RLI NEA. He currently holds the position of Chair of RLI International, taking over the role when the founder David Linett chose to step aside. Mike has been an avid RLI promoter on all levels, including manning the RLI booth at numerous International Rotary Conventions. In all these years, Mike has never been recognized for his efforts, probably because he was always in the forefront of other RI responsibilities, such as RI Director, RI Vice President and then his current position as International Polio Eradication Chair. He has always had a sweet spot for RLI as demonstrated by his involvement in so many aspects of its history.

Retiring RLI NEA Chair Jerry Gortner Honored at our Annual Meeting on Zoom

As part of our Zoom Annual Meeting on August 17, RLI NEA's Board honored Immediate Past-Chair Gerald Gortner for his outstanding devotion to his duties since 2019.

As thanks to everyone who worked with him in the past three years, Jerry said, "My sincere appreciation over the past three years to everyone who has helped us recover from COVID levels. Over these three years we have learned that zoom sessions need to be continued as the participation and diversification have been fantastic. Our experience allowing each district to decide whether they desire an in-person session or zoom sessions on Saturday or on two evening sessions within eight days has been very well received by Rotarians."



The Board created a beautiful plaque which we will send to him.



RLI NEA expands its outlook for 2024-25 as its new Officers begin their terms

35 RLI NEA Officers, Faculty Members, Site Chairs, and Regional Vice Chairs and District Governors from throughout Northeast America met on Zoom on August 16th and 17th, 2024 to learn more about their involvement with RLI and to celebrate what we accomplished together in Rotary year 2023-24.

The Annual Meeting opened with Chair Jerry Gortner officiating at our Executive Committee's Annual Meeting on Friday morning (August 18). The agenda included: decreasing the number of people and amount for reimbursement for Officers and Site Chairs at our in-person Annual meetings, voting in our new Chair PDG Mike McCarthy, new Regional Vice Chairs and Vice Chairs and re-enstating Dave Sampson as our Registrar.



After much discussion, the Board decided to raise the amount charged to each participating Rotary District in RLI NEA to \$700. (For the past six years, we have charged \$600.) This has traditionally included:

- 1) International RLI dues
- 2) Accounting services
- 3) Awards
- 4) Bank charges
- 5) Curriculum meetings
- 6) DACdb our internet and registration fees
- 7) Credit card services and charges
- 8) Postage and mail
- 9) Printing and copying
- 10) Supplies and materials

This change will not happen until Rotary year 2025-26.

Announcing our RLI NEA Graduate Course for 2024-25: Capturing the Value of your Impact

This year's Rotary Leadership Institute Northeast America's Graduate Course will focus on Capturing the Value of your Impact.

Each year, RLI NEA offers a different Graduate Course, open to anyone who has completed RLI Levels I, II and III. Even if you have attended a Graduate Course before, qualified Rotarians can take this new course.

Created by PDG Bill Gormont, our RLI NEA Executive Director Deb Glisson, and PDG Norma Madayag-Reilly, the six-hour course will examine what is needed for Rotary projects to make a positive impact, how to deal with the process of change, and recognizing and managing conflict.

During the Annual Meeting, PDG Bill Gormont talked about the objectives of the course, that is, to provide participants with the knowledge, tools, resources, skills, ideas, and connections to effectively:

- Focus on increasing our positive impact
- Explore the measurement of impact both quantitatively and qualitatively
- Discuss the effect of change and conflict on the process of increasing positive impact on the world around us.

Gormont broke down the meaning of the word IMPACT that will be covered:



- Impressions
- Personality
- Attitude
- Communication
- Teamwork

The course will also focus on defining conflict -- Intrapersonal, Inter-personal and coming to agreement and the three stages of conflict management. Both a Facilitator's Guide and a Student Guide will be available.

The course will launch on September 28th at our first RLI NEA session of this year in Verona, NY. Scroll below to register or get more information about this course.

To view the Power Point presented by PDG Bill Gormont, click here: [Power Point on the RLI NEA Graduate Course](#)

Meet Our New RLI NEA Officers and Regional Vice-Chairs

Rotary Leadership Institute Northeast America

Officers/Committee Members, 2024-25



PDG Mike McCarthy
Chair
McCarthyEnterprises@comcast.net
484-769-8225



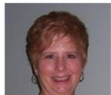
PDG Deborah Glison
Executive Director
Deborah7150@gmail.com
315-263-7037



PDG Elzabeth Cullen
Vice Chair, North
Lizgullen@yahoo.com
484-769-8225



PDG Hector Ortiz
Vice Chair, South
Richie1166@msn.com
717-608-0444



PDG Susan Cherry
Secretary
Susan.cherry1@gmail.com
802-274-1681



PDG Phyllis Danks
Treasurer
Phyl7150@gmail.com
315-256-2152



PDG Bonnie Sirower
Marketing Coordinator
Botzle@aol.com
201-446-1814



PDG David Sampson
Registrar
dps@sampson.io
508-888-8865



PDG Michael Thompson
Website Manager
MichaelThompson@ThompsonGroupinc.com
215-870-2326

Rotary Leadership Institute Northeast America

Regional Vice-Chairs 2024-25



Joan Arsenault
Massachusetts
Joan@massteximaging.com
978-356-8074



Anthony Civitano
Metro NY, Long Island
acivitano@aol.com
717-938-0063



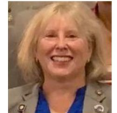
Robert J. Hobough
Pennsylvania
rotarianbob@hometownru.biz
610-360-6537



Bernadette Kucharczak
New Jersey
Bernadette5703@aol.com
201-452-3760



David C. Saturley
Vermont
dsaturley@gmail.com
603-881-0081



Janet Tenreiro
Central New York State
JanetTenreiro@gmail.com
585-721-5721

Start off the Rotary year on the right foot- increase your knowledge of Rotary and leadership!

Here we are at the start of a new academic year-- and the start of our RLI NEA courses.

Here is a listing of all of our Rotary Leadership Institute Courses that are currently open for registration.



To register for any of these courses, go to:

<https://www.rlinea.org>



September 28, 2024 at VVS High School, 5275 NY-31, Verona, NY 13478 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, CNY Rotary D 7180

Parts I, II, III, & Graduate will be offered. The course is \$75; Rotaractors fee is \$50. For information, please contact the Event Chair Jenny Doane at jennyames47@gmail.com.

October 12, 2024 at the Conference Center at Central Penn College, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale, PA 17093, from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, D 7390

Parts I, II, III, & Graduate will be offered. The course is \$125; Rotaractors fee is \$50. For information please contact Event Chair Bob Hobough - Regional Vice Chair at RotarianBob@hometownu.biz; Hector Ortiz- Vice Chair South Region at richie1166@msn.com or Melissa Kopp, Site Chair at office@rotary7390.org.

October 19, 2024 at Victor High School, 953 High Street, Victor, NY (near Rochester) 14564, from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, D7120

Parts I, II, III will be offered at a cost of \$70; Rotaractors fee is \$50.00. For information, please contact the Event Chair, Norma Madayag-Reilly at madayag.reillyn@frontier.com or RVC Janet Tenreiro at janettenreiro@gmail.com.

October 26, 2024 at Holiday Inn/East Mountain Inn, 600 Wild Flower Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (near Scranton), D 7410

Parts I, II, III, & Graduate will be offered. Cost will be \$125.00; Rotaractors fee is \$50. For more information, contact John Karavis, Site Chair at jkkaravis@comcast.net or Bob Hobough, Regional Vice Chair at RotarianBob@hometownu.biz

November 2, 2024 at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

Parts I, II, III, & Graduate will be offered at a cost of \$70; Rotaractors fee is \$50.00. For information please contact Event Chair at Pam Baxter at pamb7190@gmail.com or RVC Janet Tenreiro at janettenreiro@gmail.com.

Bulletin Editor Information

This newsletter is published quarterly by Marketing Coordinator PDG Bonnie Sirower (D 7490). Please send stories to her at Botzie@aol.com. If you no longer wish to receive this publication, just click *unsubscribe* at the bottom of this e-mail.

Please post your experiences on our RLI NEA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=rotary%20leadership%20institute%20of%20n.e.%20america> or on Facebook, just look up Rotary Leadership Institute, North East America.
