**Rotary Year 2021-2022**

President: John McEvilly

The RI theme for Rotary year 2021-2022 was “**Change Lives”.** Coming out of a year of lockdown and meeting only virtually for more than a year, this theme could not have been more appropriate, and the target audience to begin implementing this theme would be our own club members. The pandemic had wrought our regular meeting place at Redeemer Lutheran Church off limits and no McLean restaurant would consider hosting a gathering of more than 10 people due to spacing and staffing issues. But fortunately, in June of 2021 then President Courtney Nuzzo demonstrated Rotarian resourcefulness and offered the newly constructed gazebo/patio at the Lewinsville Retirement Residence for our Installation Meeting. And so, on June 22, 2021, we held our club Installation Meeting.

This installation meeting had a number of “firsts”: our first outdoor hybrid meeting (Zoom and in-person); our first meeting with BYO food; and the first club president to serve a second term. Past President John Tharrington, original sponsor of John McEvilly, conducted the installation ceremony that evening. Though we started the Rotary year lacking a president-elect due to a change of mind, we identified the following club goals to return the club to normal:

* Return to direct fellowship by resuming in-person meetings at the Redeemer Lutheran Fellowship Hall effective July 6, 2021.
* Strive to have a younger club through a robust membership recruitment program led by PP Deborah Jackson.
* Increase our visibility within McLean through a vigorous public image campaign led by Eva Sereghy.
* Resume our signature Chocolate Festival fundraiser with the help of former member Jan Auerbach.
* Reconnect with the beautiful children at Timberlane ES through our Love of Reading program headed by Deborah Jackson.
* Improve club administration continuity by having board members draft their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) to pass along to those who follow them.
* Track our monthly activity through monthly scorecards so that we can measure our success and communicate what we do to prospective new members and sponsors.
* Encourage club members to try DACdb and MyRotary.org to better understand everything that Rotary does from the comfort of their PC.
* Strive to automate our club banking programs.
* Explore launching a satellite club as a future feeder to our club.
* Enforce the letter and the spirit of our Club Constitution that we are absolutely nonpolitical in order to avoid the “friendly fire” of political polarization that has caused us to lose members in the past.

And thus, our Rotary year journey began, filled with headwinds, but leading to numerous successes in spite of occasional stumbles along the way. Our hard-working team as we started the year was as follows:

2021-2022 CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITEES

BOARD Member

PRESIDENT John McEvilly

PRESIDENT-ELECT (Open)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Courtney Nuzzo

TREASURER Richard Golden

SECRETARY Carmen Wu

VICE PRESIDENT Glenn Yarborough

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Deborah Jackson

PUBLIC IMAGE CHAIR Eva Sereghy

SERVICE CHAIR Andy Briscoe

ADMIN CHAIR Carol King

GRANTS CHAIR Michael Arietti

FOUNDATION CHAIR Ray Petniunas

INTERNATIONAL CHAIR Lois Wilson

YOUTH SERVICES CHAIR Bob Jansen

SERGEANT AT ARMS Paul Sawtell

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND COMMITTEES

WEBMASTER Richard Golden

NEWSLETTER Carmen Wu

**Membership/Fellowship**

Recognizing that attempting to recruit new members virtually would be extremely challenging, the Membership committee elected to organize in-person Happy Hour recruitment parties at locations convenient and attractive to the younger, working population. Since the club hadn’t had a Fellowship event in almost 18 months, we also combined Recruitment with Fellowship and had very enjoyable outcomes. Following an exhaustive search of reasonably priced establishments, two happy hour gatherings were scheduled:

* **September 9th:** High Point Pub (HPP) at the Tysons Corner Whole Foods proved to be an ideal party place. The provided amenities included a full service sports bar, finger food, a conference room with WiFi and a/v equipment, open air balcony and free parking. Our only requirement was to order $200 of food from the WF catering department, which we easily exceeded. 25 prospective members were invited with 10 actually attending. From this group we welcomed 4 new members by the end of the Rotary year.
* **Celebrate Bob:** On November 16th we gathered at the Redeemer Lutheran Fellowship Hall to honor our Bob Rosenbaum’s celebration as a McLean Rotarian for 50 years. We were forced to limit this event to Rotarians and spouses/significant others due to the large number wishing to attend.
* **March 17th:** Our second joint gathering was promoted as a St. Patrick’s Day party and was held at The Mather’s Tysons Corner party, presentation room. We were able to serve our own stock of alcoholic beverages and brought in party food platters from the Tysons Corner Wegman’s. Approximately, 12 prospective members joined us, and we are continuing our efforts to convert them to members. We also discovered two guest speakers from this group.
* **Holiday Party:** Scott Spitzer organized our Holiday Party at the Maggiano’s Restaurant in Tysons II, held on December 10th. Due to the high prices being charged by caterers due to Covid concerns, this proved to be the most reasonably priced option available to us. Approximately, 50 people attended with our Bob Rosenbaum leading us in song with his portable piano.
* **Virtual Effort:** Leaving no stone unturned, on October 26th we conducted a virtual new member recruitment presentation for those invitees who were unable to attend the happy hours, but wished to learn more about Rotary.

All of these efforts together yielded 8 new members, but when accounting for 7 member losses due to retirement, relocation and/or disinterest, we ended with a net gain of one member. Surprisingly, this proved to be one of the better outcomes for District 7610 clubs.

**Fundraising**

In addition to the $41,000 donated directly by McLean Rotarians to the Rotary International Foundation, on April 24th after a 2-year pause, we held our 10th annual Chocolate Festival fundraiser at the McLean Community Center. With the best Club participation of the year, over 2,000 people plus young children attended, and we netted over $26,000 for our Club Foundation to help fund our grants program.

**Other Projects**

Our major projects that deserve mentioning included the Timber Lane Love of Reading project having 11 Rotarians and 2 future Rotarians participate, reaching 330 students and providing them 960 personal books at a cost of $5,000 from our Club Foundation; 8 of our club members supported the recent Safe Community Coalition 6th Grade Ethics Day program; our FFH project allowed us to honor many heroes and partner with the Tysons Corner club; we raised almost $1,000 to purchase gift cards for our Adopt A Family project for a family who lost their home due to a fire, we raised $2,435 for back to school back packs for Timber Lane School students, and we partnered with the Global Women P.E.A.C.E Foundation and Northern Virginia Business & Professional Women’s Club in a Sanitary Napkin drive to help support and fill the immediate need for personal sanitary products for school-age girls and young women in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Conakry, Guinea, and Monrovia, Liberia, in West Africa. We have a generous club.

**New Club Project**

With Lynn Heinrichs taking charge, we launched the new Dignity of Work program recognizing 3 hard-working McLean citizens who make McLean a better place for all of us. Our winners were:

* Anita Shrestha, the cashier for 24 years at Embassy Auto Wash on Old Dominion Drive.
* Milka, Cashier at Chesterbrook Safeway
* George Kapetanakis, McLean Family Restaurant

**Grants**

We resumed our practice of member voting on funding projects through grants from our Club Foundation. Under the direction of our Michael Arietti and Eva Sereghy, members received information on each nominated project and were then asked to vote electronically on a ranked basis for the projects they preferred. The results of the member voting were then passed to the Club Foundation. The Foundation Board then made final decisions to allocate funding for the recommended projects.

Projects supported by the McLean Rotary club in 2021–2022 included:

* Timber Lane Elementary School Love of Reading
* Homestretch
* Kidstretch
* Literary Council of Northern Virginia
* McLean Little League (sponsor of Challenger team)
* Vinson Hall
* Chesterbrook Residences
* Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center
* Indego Africa
* College Scholarships

**Awards**

Due to pandemic constraints, the District limited the number of awards a club could receive, and McLean Rotary Club was recognized in all categories for the Rotary year 2021–2022. The honors received were as follows:

* District 7610 Rotarian of the Year: Michael Arietti
* Non-Rotarian McLean Citizen of the Year: Jan Auerbach
* Special Tenure Award: Bob Rosenbaum
* Significant Club Project Award: Timber Lane ES Love of Reading – Deborah Jackson

Respectfully submitted,

John P McEvilly