

# Rotary

## District 7280



## District Governor's Note

### A Season of Service and Gratitude

Dear Rotary District 7280 Family,

As the holiday season draws near, I'm reflecting on the profound impact we've made together this year. December is a month for celebration, reflection, and renewal—a time to celebrate our shared accomplishments and look ahead to the opportunities that await us in the coming year.

This month, Rotary International highlights Disease Prevention and Treatment, one of our core areas of focus. It's a timely reminder of how our efforts contribute to building healthier, more resilient communities both locally and globally. From supporting vaccination programs to providing access to clean water and promoting mental health initiatives, our work is creating lasting change. I encourage each of you to explore how your club can amplify your impact in this critical area. Whether by partnering with local health organizations, hosting awareness events, or supporting district & global grants, your dedication is what turns challenges into triumphs.

This is also a season of giving, and Rotarians excel in the art of generosity. Thank you for your time, talent, and treasure, which enable us to transform lives. Let's take this opportunity to celebrate our shared successes. Perhaps your club can organize a holiday gathering or service project to bring members and families together, strengthening the bonds that make Rotary so special. As I've shared at all of my Area visits, it's our job to CELEBRATE each other! This is a perfect season to do just that.

Looking ahead, I'm thrilled about the exciting events and initiatives planned for 2025. Please read these newsletters, check the District calendar in DACdb, mark your calendars, and let's carry this year's momentum into 2025 with even greater enthusiasm.

As we embrace this festive season, let's remember the Rotary spirit: Service Above Self. May we all find joy in giving, cherish the friendships we've built, and rededicate ourselves to making a difference.

Thank you for your commitment and passion for Rotary. Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with peace, joy, and gratitude.

In Holiday Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary".

Zachary Covington

District Governor



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## Dates to Remember - Dec & Jan

## December - Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

12/25 Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah

## January - Vocational Service Month

Happy New Year!!

1/20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/20 - Inauguration Day

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## Membership Matters!

If I were to ask you "What is Rotary?", my guess is that most of you would answer "we are a service organization". While this is partly true, Rotary is a membership organization that provides service and resources to those in need. The key word here is "Membership". Without members and their time, talents and treasurers, Rotary Clubs cannot provide the service and resources.

For the first 25+ years of my membership, the keywords related to membership had been membership retention. While retention is very important, over the last couple of years, the focus has shifted to attrition. While clubs have some control over retention by providing their membership with meaningful experience of being a member, clubs have no control over attrition. People move out of the area, change jobs, lifestyles change, family obligations, failure to pay dues, a club does not meet their desire, illness, and death are some of the causes of attrition.

A review of the district membership numbers over the last 5 years shows the total net membership has dropped 11.4 %. Attrition is real, unpredictable and uncontrollable.

As of November 1, 2024, 8 clubs have a net growth of more than 2 members, 8 clubs have a net growth of 1 member, 18 clubs have not had a net growth, and 8 clubs have lost members. My guess is that a review of the numbers on January 1, 2025, will be much different and not in a positive way. As we all know, every December and June, clubs tend to "purge" their roll of those members that have left for one reason or another.

If clubs want to remain vibrant and relevant, they need to grow. Otherwise, they will eventually die. Case in point is that we have lost 3 clubs over the last 5 years.

Where do you want your club to be in 1 year, 3 years, or 5 years?

Remember that to make a bigger impact on your community, MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

I welcome your inquiry or questions on how we can help.

Ken Fleeson  
District 7280 Membership Chair  
kfleeson@lectromat.com  
724-355-1619

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## A Night at the Races - February 2025

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**2025 Mercer Rotary Derby**  
*A Night at the Races*

**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

**East End Firehouse Community Center • 104 Wilson Ave, Mercer, PA**

**Doors Open @ 5pm • Races Begin @ 6pm**

**Entrance Fee = \$25.00**

**Includes access to betting windows for all 11 races along with food buffet & beverage**  
*Place \$2 cash-only bet on your favorite horse to win*

**Chinese Auction**

**25 Tickets available for \$20**

**Buy a Horse = \$20/horse**

**Horse owner receives \$40.00 if horse wins race**

*Pre-Race Day sales only - Buy your horse by February 14, 2025*

**Sponsor A Race = \$100.00**

**Sponsor name on racing form, sponsor announced during race**

*Pre-Race Day sales only - Reserve sponsorship by February 14, 2025*

**Event Sponsorship - Gold = \$300.00**

*Gold sponsor name placed on all advertisements & banners and announced throughout the event*

**Event Sponsorship - Silver = \$200.00**

*Silver sponsor name placed on all banners and announced throughout the event*

**All proceeds from Derby Event provide Mercer Rotary Club Community Service projects benefiting the local community**

For more information call  
Kathie @ 623-225-8561

**All donations gratefully accepted**

*Buy a horse, sponsor a race or sponsor the derby by February 14, 2025 by contacting a Rotary member  
Cash or check only*

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## District Leaders

Zachary S. Covington  
District Governor  
Aaron Matthew Sines  
District Governor-Elect  
Mary E. Lord  
DG Nominee  
Eva Palmer  
District Secretary  
Patricia J. Meehan  
District Treasurer  
Ken R Fleeson  
District Membership Chair

## Busy November for the Zelianople Club

The Zelianople Club had a busy November. First, we toured the brand new Zelianople location for our local fire station. We held a pancake breakfast fundraiser to benefit the Hope Squad, a suicide prevention program at the Seneca Valley School District. We also: collected socks for the New Castle City Mission; ran a Lottery Calendar fundraiser; hosted a District Governor Official Visit Dinner for the Rotary Clubs of Ellwood City, New Castle and New Wilmington; and, hosted the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in conjunction with Small Business Saturday in Zelianople.



Meet our "Rotarians in Training!"



“DG Zach shows off the Rotary logo lining of his District Governor sports jacket.”



Zelienople Rotarians decorate the Main Street Christmas Tree. The Rotary helped donate the tree and take responsibility for setting it up each year.

## New Year's Eve Bingo

John Marshall  
District Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair  
Rebekah E.  
Deal  
District Public  
Image/PR Chair

NEW YEARS EVE

**BINGO**

THE PARTY STARTS AT 6PM  
**DECEMBER 28TH**

**TICKET ARE \$35**  
(ONLY 150 SOLD)

TICKET INCLUDES

ENTRY TO PARTY  
(1) BINGO SHEET FOR EACH GAME  
(2) DRINKS AND DINNER

\*\*ADDITIONAL BINGO GAMES CAN BE PURCHASED

**JACKPOT \$500**

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
EAST END FIRE DEPT.  
COMMUNITY BUILDING  
MERCER, PA

**GUARANTEED**

FUNDRAISER FOR:  
MERCER  
**Rotary**  
CLUB 

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 724-977-4994

**Bradford District Grant Project**

# Hotdog luncheon, dance party



Submitted

Rotary Club of Bradford volunteered at and sponsored a hotdog luncheon Friday at Futures Rehabilitation Center. Pictured, from left, are Margie Kibbie with Futures; Rotarian Steve Morgan, president and CEO of Futures; Mathew Lamphier with Futures; Rotary Club President Ben Kirsch; and Rotarian Nate Higbie. The lunch was the first of two "lunch and learn" programs at the center. Friday's program featured DJ Benzo (a.k.a. Kirsch) who played classic and contemporary tunes. Participants at Futures loved the music and some had an impromptu dance party. The program was sponsored by Rotary Club of Bradford with a matching grant from Rotary District 7280.

## Keystone E-Club - People of Action

Keystone Rotary Club

We are PEOPLE OF ACTION!

PLEASE HELP by completing this easy [google form](#)

It takes less than a minute & can really make a difference!

### Kosova & Albania Friendship Exchange HOW CAN YOU HELP?

#### INVITE US TO SPEAK

We can join in person or by zoom to share our Friendship Exchange stories, the places we visited, and the things we discovered. It was amazing!



#### MAKE A DONATION

Email us to make a pledge to any of these projects - receive an invoice, pay by check, scan to pay by venmo or visit our website for credit card/paypal details.



#### FUND A PROJECT

Would you consider becoming a champion supporter of a project? Make a major donation as an individual or club or coordinate a group of donors to change lives.



*Making a Difference All  
Around the World*

Scan here to Connect with us,  
Make a Donation, or  
Subscribe to our Newsletter!

Rotary District 7280 Keystone International E-Club

Rotary District 7280 Keystone International E-Club



KeystoneRotaryConnects@gmail.com

Reach out to us at [KeystoneRotaryConnects@gmail.com](mailto:KeystoneRotaryConnects@gmail.com)



Pictured above: Keystone Rotary Board of Directors

## Join in the Conversation



**International  
Coalition of  
FIRE FIGHTERS**  
AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Like-minded men & women using their time and talents in public safety to help others in need around the world. Providing training, equipment and resources in times of recovery after war or natural disasters.

### Learn more - join the conversation

- ✓ Zoom meetings once a month
- ✓ Share ideas & connections
- ✓ Travel to aide in recovery and training
- ✓ Ship unused equip. & apparatus

Contact Chris Motta or Peter Robinson



[Motta8822@aol.com](mailto:Motta8822@aol.com)  
[peterjr.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:peterjr.robinson@gmail.com)

Elevate your SERVICE to a new level

**KeystoneRotaryClub.org**  
[KeystoneRotaryConnects@gmail.com](mailto:KeystoneRotaryConnects@gmail.com)

NEXT MEETING

Dec. 9th at 4:00 EST

**Second Monday each month**  
at 4pm EST / 9pm in the UK  
Zoom Meeting ID:  
894 5726 0709# / Password: 7280

## Bradford Supports Local Head Start

## Rotary helping students thrive



Rotary Club of Bradford

**Ben Kirsch, area governor for Rotary District 7280 and Rotary Club of Bradford president, visited a local Head Start classroom this week to deliver much-needed hygiene supplies. The initiative supports Head Start students in Bradford, Eldred and Port Allegany, thanks to a collaborative effort by the Rotary Clubs of Bradford, Port Allegany, Smethport and Mount Jewett. "The Rotary is incredibly grateful for the many donations from members across the county and the community at large," said Kirsch. "We also want to thank our partners at Burns & Burns Insurance and CARE for Children for serving as drop-off locations." The drive, Kirsch said, is part of Rotary's commitment to fostering health and well-being in the region, ensuring that students have the resources they need to thrive. For more information about the Rotary Club of Bradford, including ways to get involved, visit [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) or email [bfdrotary@gmail.com](mailto:bfdrotary@gmail.com).**

## Outbound Youth Exchange in Argentina

District 7280 Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Student Produced a Video of Her First Two Months in Argentina

Estella Adams, a Rotary Youth Exchange student sponsored by the Rotary Club of Franklin, shot this video of her early days in Argentina. Estella is living and studying in Argentina during the 2024-2025 school year.

Here is a link to her video:

[https://youtu.be/cbZ52ArKRZA?si=tMLu\\_Na3xRZ9p6ev](https://youtu.be/cbZ52ArKRZA?si=tMLu_Na3xRZ9p6ev)

To learn more about the Rotary Youth Exchange program, including opportunities to host students from other countries, sponsor area students who go outbound for a school year, and the Short Term/Summer program, contact the District 7280 Youth Exchange Committee.

- Beth Marshall, Chair, 724-624-4057, [harriettclyde@gmail.com](mailto:harriettclyde@gmail.com)
- Mary Lord, Inbound Coordinator, (724) 290-1173, [lordmary10@gmail.com](mailto:lordmary10@gmail.com)
- Beth Marshall, Short Term Coordinator, 724-624-4057, [harriettclyde@gmail.com](mailto:harriettclyde@gmail.com)
- Jeff Simmons, Outbound Coordinator, 724-875-1136, [jssim89167@yahoo.com](mailto:jssim89167@yahoo.com)

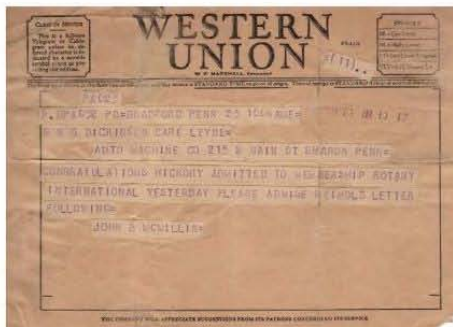


# Hermitage Celebrates 70th Anniversary

On November 22, 2024, the Hermitage Rotary Club celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with dinner, club memories, and Rotary trivia.



The Rotary club was first chartered on November 22, 1954, as the Rotary Club of Hickory Township. The club was an expansion from the Rotary Club of Sharon. Pictured below is the official telegram welcoming the club to Rotary International.



The first meetings were held at Ward's Dairy and since then club meetings have been at over a dozen locations. Notable projects throughout the years have included The Crippled Children's Society of Mercer County, Hermitage Historical Society, Buhl Park Kiosk, and countless more.

District Governor, Zachary Covington, presented the club with a certificate for our 70 years of Service Above Self!



## Portersville-Prospect and the Asservo Project

In June of 2021, the Portersville-Prospect Rotary group learned through a program about the

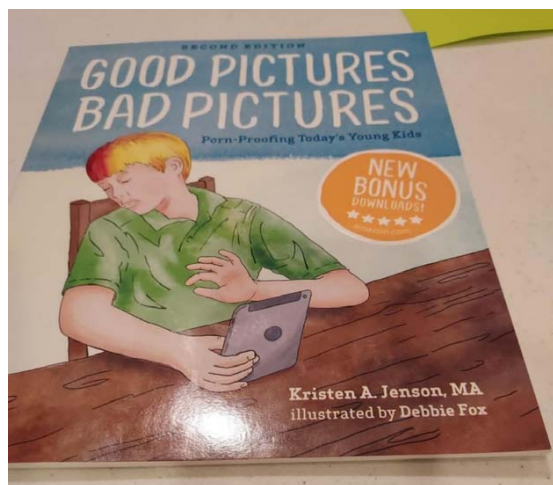
atrocities of Human Trafficking happening in our very own Butler County. Most of us thought it was something that happens in other countries and our eyes were wide open as the information was explained. Hearing what we heard was enough for the group to do what Rotarians do best. Jump into action to help our communities. A human trafficking committee within our Rotary group was formed almost immediately.

Since then, we have helped to coordinate several Human Trafficking educations for adults and children. The education is provided through a local non-profit organization called The Asservo Project.

[Home - The Asservo Project](#)

The mission of The Asservo Project is to combat global human trafficking, child exploitation and sexual predators, support the recovery of victims, and aid in the imprisonment of perpetrators. Their team of diverse, dedicated, and experienced professionals utilizes the latest cutting-edge technology to identify, analyze, and eradicate sexual exploitation and its associated networks. Education is key to preventing this horrific crime. More people don't know about human trafficking because most people think it only happens overseas, so they don't educate themselves on it. It's also a huge enterprise where people in all walks of life are involved from someone you may sit next to at church all the way up to all levels of government. It's also not largely reported on in the media.

Some of the places that said yes to the human trafficking presentation over the last year include the Rose Schneider YMCA, Riverside High School, Holy Redeemer church. Most recently the Mohawk school district educated over 650 kids in grades 6-12. They also had access to books that could help educate their friends and family. Teaching kids about pornography at a very young age will protect them as they grow and also help them to achieve healthy, loving relationships as they get older. The books are available on Amazon or you can contact the Portersville-Prospect Rotary. [Good Pictures Bad Pictures Jr.: A Simple Plan to Protect Young Minds: Kristen A. Jenson, Debbie Fox: 9780997318722: Amazon.com: Books](#)



## Portersville-Prospect Annual Veteran's Dinner

The Rotary Club of Portersville Prospect held their annual Veterans Appreciation dinner 11/12/24. After a great meal, we had a great program from Wings for Vets. Thanks to all who helped and Corkey for an interesting program, check it out at [www.wings4vets.net](http://www.wings4vets.net) and for the Veterans. Thank you for your service and the club is looking forward to next year's dinner.



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## Grove City Fundraiser - BINGO!

# Grove City Rotary FUNDRAISER

# SUPER BINGO!



**\$6,500** IN CASH PRIZES

**Feb 22**

**Tickets \$40**

pre-sale, limited seating

Grove City  
Masonic Lodge

Doors open **11 am**  
Games start **1 pm**

(Food available)

WITH JACKPOT OF  
sponsored by Thomas Construction

**\$1,000**

For info call 724-748-5885

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**SRU Rotaract Attends ShelterBox Event**



Alaina Pagano, JP Blausner, Rylan Strauser, Zach Covington, Alyssa Wolf, Judy Hughes and Krislyn Green



Brian Glenn from the ShelterBox Response Team, JP Blausner, Rylan Strauser, Krislyn Green, Alyssa Wolf, Alaina Pagano, Elliott Williams, Shelter Box Fundraising Director

## Port Allegany Designer Purse Bingo

Please complete to be included in the drawings.

## ROTARY CLUB OF PORT ALLEGANY DESIGNER PURSE BINGO

Sunday, December 8, 2024

VMI, 4743 PA-Route 155

Doors Open at 11:30 A.M., Games Begin at 1:00 P.M.

12 Purse Bingo games including Mystery bag, 2 Special games, and more!

50/50 raffle, basket raffle table, door prizes, pull tab tickets.

Food and Drink available from the VMI

Snacks Provided - No Outside Alcohol Allowed

Tickets are \$30.00

Your ticket stub will be included in a special drawing if purchased by Nov. 14th

SGC# 07434

151

Gloria Sousae 610-331-3468

Susan Flint 814-598-1942

## Franklin Does Magic for Thanksgiving!

The Franklin Rotary Club hosted the Franklin Kiwanis Club for our annual Thanksgiving dinner meeting on 11/18/2024.

We had a great time sharing fellowship and a delicious Thanksgiving feast cooked by the Franklin Elks Club.

The entertainment for the afternoon was by Rob Hoover, the Magician (son of Franklin Rotarian Dennis Hoover) who gave us a fantastic magic show!



## Zelienople Raises Funds for Suicide Prevention Program

The Rotary Club of Zelienople celebrated one of its last centennial celebrations with a pancake breakfast on November 10. The Club raised valuable dollars for the Seneca Valley Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program.



## Fun Night at the Warren Rotary's Tropical Casino Night!



Prepare for an unforgettable evening filled with excitement, games, and camaraderie as we raise funds to support local Rotary programs.

Date: February 1, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Location: Conewango Club, 201 Market St, Warren, PA

Ticket Price: \$25 per person for advanced tickets <https://rcw.betterworld.org/events/warren-rotarys-tropical-casino-n> (\$30 per person at the door)

Includes entrance fee, a glass of tropical punch, and

appetizers.

Put on your favorite tropical attire and participate in our Costume Contest for a chance to win prizes! Try your luck with Games of Chance, enjoy a Basket Raffle, and relax at our Cash Bar.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to have fun while making a difference in our community. Gather your friends and get ready for a night to remember!

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Warren Sponsors Free Books for KidsTown at Heroes All-Inclusive Sensory-Friendly Trunk Event

Saturday, October 27th, the Warren Rotary Club joined in the Halloween festivities by sponsoring and distributing books at the Heroes All-Inclusive Sensory-Friendly Trunk or Treat event.

This unique and inclusive community gathering brought children and families together to celebrate Halloween in a sensory-friendly environment, making it a safe and welcoming experience for everyone.

As part of Rotary's commitment to fostering literacy and supporting youth, club members handed out brand-new books through the Free Books for KidsTown program, allowing each child to pick out and take home a book of their very own. From exciting adventures to educational tales, the selection aimed to encourage a love of reading and ensure every child has access to enriching stories.

The Heroes Trunk or Treat was a great success, drawing families and children of all abilities and needs together for a day of fun, inclusivity, and community spirit. The Warren Rotary Club looks forward to continuing its work in the community and helping to inspire young readers through ongoing literacy initiatives.



## Clarion Attends District 7280 Update



On Tuesday, November 19, 2024, members of the Clarion Rotary Club attended a 7280 District Update by DG Zachary Covington.

LEFT TO RIGHT BACK ROW: Jared Heuer, Zack Garbarino, Bill Hearst

LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT: Jim Crooks, Crystal Jewell, Jamie Lefever, Rick Tote, DG Zachary Covington, President Jon Williams, Jenn Keth, Jessica Hansford

## Butler A.M. Inducts New Members





**Inductee Trio:**

Individual Membership Douglas Green with sponsor, Audrianna Bly  
Corporate Membership Tayna Wise with the Butler County Chamber of Commerce with Sponsor  
Jordan Grady  
Individual Membership & previous member Larry Sassone with sponsor Dick Musko  
President Dawn Halle



Inductee: Justin Huff with Clear Choice Enterprises (Corporate Membership) with Owner of Clear  
Choice Enterprises and Rotary Member Julie Sebeck with Rotary President Dawn Halle

## Light Up Mt Jewett



## "Light Up Mt. Jewett" Sponsored by the Mt. Jewett Rotary Club

Come join the members of the Mt. Jewett Rotary Club for the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas lights at Heritage Park and along Main Street in downtown Mt. Jewett

**When:** Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Heritage Park (next to Kaffe Sol)  
Please bring along a non-perishable food item as we will be collecting for the Mt Jewett Hunger Project.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors as we share the start of the Holiday Season with a warm fire, Christmas music, cookies, and hot cocoa along with plenty of hometown pride. **Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!**

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Rotary Christmas Lighting Project may send their donations to: The Mount Jewett Rotary Club  
P.O. Box 177 Mount Jewett, PA 16740.

Mount Jewett Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. at the Barrel House Restaurant.  
Rotary's main objective is service - in the community, in the workplace, and around the globe.

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## Water Has Arrived in Wugladza



It was a day of sheer joy, celebration, gratitude, and hope in the beautiful village of Wugladza today!

Thank you to the Pine-Richland High School Interact Club's Walk 4 Water Event.

## Rich-Mar Provides Peace Pole for Pine Township



Pictured with the new Peace Pole at the Pine Community Center are Seth Prentice, Rich-Mar Rotary Club president-elect; Pete Geis, township director of parks and open space; Jason Kratsas, township manager; Audrey Mackie, who chairs the Pine Board of Supervisors; and her children McKenzie and Michael.

## Rich-Mar Honors Students from Mars & Pine-Richland High Schools



On November 6th, students from the Mars Area and Pine-Richland High Schools were honored for both their academic achievement and their service to the community. They and their parents were treated to lunch at Treesdale Country Club. Plus, a \$50 donation was given in each student's honor to a charity of their choice. Congratulations to these outstanding young men and women.

From left to right above:  
Lindsay Rosswog-Mars HS Principal, Ava Herbovich-Mars, Carson Mahan-Mars,  
Sara Irwin-PR, Carrie Dosch-PR, Reagan Connelly-Mars,  
Tracy Kuchnicki-PR Asst. Principal, Dr Frank Hernandez-PR Principal

## Rich-Mar Rotarian Joe Mancuso Helps With Iowa Flood Relief



Joe Mancuso helped Hosanna Industries carry out a relief project in a flood-ravaged area of Iowa. That's Joe on the far left.

## Rich-Mar's Pancake Breakfast Blesses our Community



The pot was \$600.

I asked one of the young ladies who was still there at 11 to draw the winner - Jackie Lemon.

I spun Pat Lord's spinner that had a lot of tickets (with only the number on it) and Jackie closed her eyes, reached in and picked out a ticket.

We checked Pat's sheets and lo and behold she had picked her husband, Cameron's ticket.

He gave \$100 back to Rich-Mar.

Thanks to all that helped in any way for the pancake breakfast. We had a good day of fellowship, laughs and full stomachs. Many volunteers from the main club and satellite made the event a great success. All of our sponsors helped make this a good fundraiser. All of you that bought tickets are integral to our success. We will tally up the final numbers soon, but we believe we hit our goals financially. More importantly, it demonstrates what Rotarians can do together and enjoy it along the way.

See the link below for more pictures of another great pancake breakfast!

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1k8Q-IBsmvpep\\_pwzbvAvyToHOIN0SmsIRVKloyvVf-q4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1k8Q-IBsmvpep_pwzbvAvyToHOIN0SmsIRVKloyvVf-q4/edit?usp=sharing)

## 25th Year Anniversary Celebration

The Rotary Club of Cranberry Township – Sunrise celebrated its 25th Anniversary on Tuesday, November 19th at the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. More than 60 people attended the event, including fellow Rotarians from the Noon, Sunset, and Zelianople clubs. The evening was filled with wonderful stories, great memories, special recognitions, a fun game of Rotary trivia and very enjoyable guitar and mandolin renditions by Rich Klein and Bud Rieger. As part of the celebration, a multi-table display showcased our club's history, our past and current members, and many of the projects we've done in our community, country, and world.



## Spreading a little Rotary Holiday Spirit

Two elves from the Rotary Club of Cranberry Township – Sunrise spread a little Rotary holiday spirit at the CTCC Tree and Wreath Gallery in the Cranberry Township Municipal Center!



## Sensory Santa Event December 14th (All are welcome)

The Rotary Club of Cranberry Township - Sunrise and Cranberry Township is hosting a Sensory Friendly Santa Drive-Thru to the Cranberry Township Municipal Center on Saturday, December 14! A sensory Santa event, also known as a Silent Santa event, is a low-stress, quiet, and inclusive holiday experience for children and adults with sensory sensitivities. The event is designed to help

children and adults with sensory sensitivities, such as autism or sensory processing disorder, enjoy the holidays in a comfortable and safe environment. While sensory sensitive focused, we invite all families to the Santa drive-thru.

The event is FREE, but reservations are required. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/4hUv110>



## New Impact Club - Community Meal Ministries

In early November, the Butler Rotary approved the Community Meal Ministries Impact Club to help serve the needs of the Butler community. For over 30 years churches in Butler have been serving meals to the hungry each week. Early in the COVID pandemic we realized that working together would benefit all of us & those we feed.

As we have grown as a group, we found it beneficial to hold a yearly fundraiser to help us cover the expenses we had with the growing number that we were serving. In 2022 we held the first CMM Art Show & Gala. Thanks to the inspiration of Jon Pugliese, retired art teacher & Katie's Kitchen volunteer, we highlighted three local artists & their work which could be purchased- with a portion of the proceeds going to the CMM. Music, food, & a basket raffle add to the evening's festivities. Each year this event has grown & continues to be an important source of funds for these churches.

This year has been particularly stressful as the number of hungry we are serving daily is close to 400 by the last weeks of the month. For example, from the end of July to the end of October this year, Katie's Kitchen served an Average of 304 meals per week. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were serving 80-100 meals a week.

The Community Meal Ministries consists of 5 basic churches who each serve meals 1 day a week:

- Monday- First English Lutheran Church
- Tuesday- All Saints Parish at St Paul Church
- Wednesday- St Andrews Presbyterian Church
- Thursday- St Mark's Lutheran & Trinity Lutheran ( Katie's Kitchen)
- Friday- First United Methodist

After the Gala this spring, there was discussion of the CMM becoming its own 501c3 to help in obtaining larger funds & grants. Lou Greci from the Butler Rotary suggested us becoming an Impact Club under the Butler Rotary umbrella as many of our volunteers are already connected to the Rotary. Lou, Leslie Osche, & Shawn Pugh have been instrumental in helping us work through this process. There is still work to be done but CMM is well on its way! We are excited about this next step & look forward to our partnership with the Butler Rotary and the work that we can do to help our neighbors in Butler.

## It's Not Too Late to Become a ShelterBox Hero



**ShelterBox**

**Rotary**



Our fall fundraising is an important part of what makes ShelterBox aid possible. On November 14<sup>th</sup> we held a multidistrict Shine for ShelterBox Gala event at Stables at Connoquenessing.

Seventeen clubs in District 7280 and four clubs in district 7305 have already become Heroes or Champions to support families in need.

Many thanks to those who attended and those who donated. With all your help, we raised over \$33,000 at this event!

While our event is done, it's not too late to participate:

1. You can still become a ShelterBox Bronze or Silver Hero by sending a check for \$1000 or \$3000 made out to ShelterBox USA, to David Sturrock, 7954 Franklin Rd, Evans City, PA. If you note your district and club on the memo line, I'll ensure that it gets credited correctly. Personal or company donations will also contribute to your club hero award if you follow the same instructions.
2. Want to share in the fun? See our Google picture album here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZWvKpXDdvcvM3vH4c7>.
3. Our event incorporated a national Evening to Experience ShelterBox event. The recording is now available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78egjp-VAul>. This would be great to view on your own or maybe play the first 30 minutes or so at a future club meeting.

As always, contact us if you would like us to appear in-person or virtually at a club meeting or



event. We hope to see you soon! And if you know anyone who would consider working with us as an ambassador (particularly northern D7280 or eastern D7305) please contact us.

ShelterBox District 7305 and 7280 Ambassadors

Dave & Melanie Sturrock, 724-991-4750, [dtsturrock@gmail.com](mailto:dtsturrock@gmail.com)

<https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>

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