

Rotary



Club of Fox Chapel Area

Club Meeting

Fox Chapel Area
Meets at Lauri Ann West
Community Center
1220 Powers Run Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Time: Wednesday at 11:45 AM

Birthdays

John M McCaslin
March 24th
Carol A Wood
March 24th
James E. Herald
March 27th
David A Longhini
March 30th
William B. Gordon
April 11th
Clifford D Hendry
April 11th
Fred P Harchelroad
April 16th
Ellsworth T Bowser
April 17th

Aviator: Why Pittsburgh Needs a Navy

U.S. Navy aviator Capt. **Byron King** (ret), who was born and raised in Pittsburgh and spent 30 years in the Navy, will discuss "Why Pittsburgh Needs a Navy" at our meeting March 19.

Capt. King was on active duty from 1981 to 1990 and served as a reservist from 1990-2011. He now lives in Mt. Lebanon.

He was commissioned through the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) program in 1981, in Pensacola, Florida. He then went through flight training and was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO). Assigned to the West Coast, he flew the aircraft carrier-capable Navy/Lockheed S-3 "Viking" aircraft, focused on antisubmarine warfare and various other special missions in the 1980s during the Cold War. Later in the 1980s, he served on the staff of Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon.

As a reservist, Captain King served in units based in Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C. and Detroit. He served overseas during Desert Shield/Storm in the Mediterranean and Red Sea areas. In later years, related duties took him to and across the Middle East region, from Egypt to Oman and most countries in between.

Capt. King holds academic degrees from Harvard, the U.S. Naval War College and the University of Pittsburgh.

In his civilian occupations, Capt. King worked for many years as a geologist. In earlier days, he worked in the energy industry with oil, gas and uranium operations; and currently works in the hard rock mining industry, focusing on critical metals and materials.

We meet at the **Lauri Ann West Community Center** located at 1220 Powers Run Road in O'Hara Township starting at 11:45 a.m.

Link to attend via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82862414969?pwd=a4fa39amoELZwEScf54dGufHah8Sim.1>

Link to Website:

<https://foxchapelrotary.com/>

Rotary Grants \$10,000 to 2nd Harvest's Free Fridge

Second Harvest in Sharpsburg has announced that it is thrilled with a grant of \$10,000 from the **Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area** for its Community Free Fridge program.

Established in 2022, the Community Free Fridge at Second Harvest allows our Sharpsburg neighbors to meet their immediate food needs with dignity and anonymity.

The grant will allow Second Harvest to maintain a budget to buy food that will supplement donations to the Free Fridge. Importantly, the grant funds will go twice as far thanks to a new partnership with **Giant Eagle's Flashfood program**, which enables Second Harvest to purchase fresh items such as meat, produce, dairy, and bakery goods, as well as snacks and pantry staples that are nearing their best-sell-by dates – all at a significant discount. To date, the Flashfood program has fed nearly 21,000 families in communities like ours, while diverting 1.4 million pounds of food from landfills.

Support from the Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area will stock the Community Free Fridge an extra day each week in 2025 -- with Flashfood savings of more than 50%. In this way, the grant will have double the impact to reduce food insecurity and reduce food waste in our community.

1945 - 1,250 U.S. Bombers Hit Berlin; Red Army Closes In

By Thomas P. Benic

March 19, 1945

This being the 80th anniversary of the final months of World War II, with nearly all our founding Fox Chapel Area Rotary Club members in 1970 involved in the conflict, we present this week-by-week history of that conflict. Some 405,000 Americans, nearly all servicemen, died in World War II in which 65 MILLION men, women and children were killed worldwide

By the middle of March 1945, both Germany and Japan were being bombed relentlessly, and each nation's military forces were reeling from crushing battlefield defeats. Yet there was no hint of surrender from the leadership of either nation.

- The palace of Emperor Hirohito had been untouched but lay only blocks from the burned ruins of a 16-square-mile section of the city that had been firebombed by 279 U.S. B29 bombers March 9-10, killing 100,000 civilians.
- The island of Iwo Jima fell to the Americans this week, despite all but 216 of the 21,000 Japanese defenders fighting to their death, refusing to surrender while killing or wounding 26,000 Americans.
- The once-powerful Japanese navy that started the war by bombing the American base at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, a little more than three years ago, is now just a shell of itself, unable to attack -- or even defend -- against the American naval armada of nearly 1,000 major combat ships in the Pacific, drawing closer to the main island of Japan each day.

Yet Emperor Hirohito, considered a god by many in this nation of 70 million, gives no hint of a possible surrender. Most Japanese have never heard him speak. His war ministers make no offer to begin peace negotiations.

In Europe, the Soviet Red Army, which had crossed the Oder River into Germany weeks ago, now called a halt less than 50 miles east Berlin, while continuing to crush German resistance throughout once German-occupied Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary.

Meanwhile, on Germany's western border, American, British and Canadian armies have amassed more than 1 million combat troops just west of the Rhine River and continue bombing German cities at will, with little opposition. On March 18, some 1,250 American bombers target Berlin, which had been bombed many times in the past year, but never by this many planes.

Adolph Hitler, sheltering in his Berlin bunker 60 feet underground, is still barking out orders to his obviously beaten forces. More than 4 million in the German military, plus nearly 1 million civilians, have already died in the war.

On March 19, Hitler issues his "Nero Decree," ordering that all industries, military installations, machine shops, transportation facilities and communications facilities in Germany be destroyed ahead of Allied advances, but Albert Speer, placed in charge of the implementation, deliberately disobeys it.

On March 20, Hitler dismisses Heinrich Himmler from his military command.

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