

District 7170 Newsletter



www.rotarydistrict7170.org | www.rotary.org

Wendy Deis – District Governor 2023-2024
Rotary Club of Owego, USA

Gordon R. McNally – Rotary International President 2023-2024
Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Lothian, Scotland

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

December 2023

Governor's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we approach the holiday season whether its Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, Diwali, or Bodhi day, I'd like to extend my warmest wishes to all members, their families, and friends.

Reflecting on the past year, I'm grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of each member, whose commitment has helped us make a meaningful impact in our various humanitarian endeavors.

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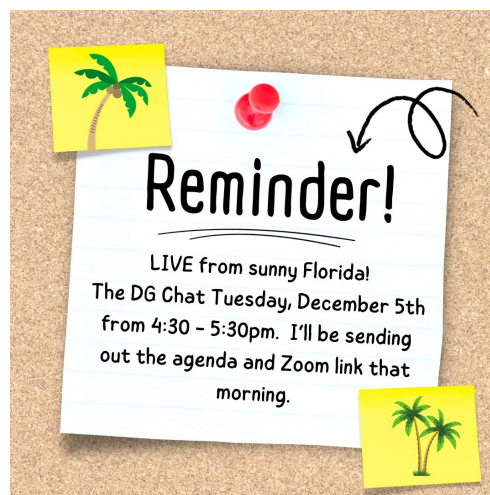
Throughout the year we have worked together, embodying the Rotary spirit of service above self. From local initiatives to global projects, your contributions have touched countless lives and have made a difference.

As we celebrate the holidays and welcome the new year, let's continue to uphold the values of Rotary – fostering goodwill, promoting peace, and striving for a better world for all.

I hope this festive season brings you joy, peace and wonderful moments with those you hold dear. Wishing you all the best!

Wendy

Your District Governor 2023-2024
Wendy Deis
Owego Rotary Club



CNY Rotary News

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Burma School Lives On

Nearly 30 Rotary Clubs in District 7170 took an active role between 2010 and 2014 to support a school for the poorest of the poor in central Burma (Myanmar). Mainly done under the nose and behind the back of the country's military dictators, our efforts helped grow a school of grades 1 and 2, with 46 students, to a school with grades 1-10 and 420 students in 2014.



We sent donations for school supplies, medical gowns and medicines for the clinic, overhead projectors and transparencies, over half a ton (1,086 pounds) of new English Reader textbooks for grades K-6, tens of thousands of doses of Folic Acid to help prevent birth defects, building of a toilet facility for the students so they wouldn't have to use an open field, socks/shirts/hats for the kids for the colder months, sandals for year round, and much more. And we gave them hope! They couldn't believe that people in the United States of America cared about them.

Today, the Burma School is growing and has 684 students because local parents are taking their children out of the other local schools, which are run by the military. The Burma School Lives On! For those of you who helped a decade ago, your efforts are continuing to pay dividends. Sons and daughters of students who graduated a decade ago now attend the same school, which probably would not exist today were it not for your efforts. Thank you!

- Bob Aagre, Nimmonsburg-Hillcrest Rotary

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District Grants

Hello fellow Rotarians. Just a reminder that midterm reports are due January 31, 2024.

If you have already completed your projects, please submit the final report as soon as possible to be reimbursed. Both forms can be found on the district website. If for some reason you cannot get them, please email me at 7170districtgrants@gmail.com and I will forward to you.

On another note, I have received multiple emails about next year's grants when we are CNY Rotary. As of right now I will be on the committee, not the chair but things are not finalized yet as to the rules and when they applications will be due. I will try and keep everyone informed the best I can when I know more. Thank you for your patience.

- Catrina McKissick Ruling

~*~

Climate Action Notes

Reduce ... Reduce ... Reduce

Winter is here!!

Our energy usage does change with the seasons and there are many ways we can reduce our carbon footprint and stay comfortable in cold weather!

Short term

Have your heating system serviced. It will save money and energy when running optimally regardless of the fuel.

Use window blinds to help keep the house warm at night.

Install smart thermostats. This way you can warm the house only where you need it and when you need it.

Use blankets & sweaters so you can keep the temperature lower. *[Editor: I love snuggling under a blanket!]*

Don't idle cars forever... ask any decent mechanic... engines are ready go in less than a minute of starting so there is no need to 'warm up' the engine. Start the car first and, when you are done clearing the windows, the interior will be warm enough.

Turn off unused lights. With more hours of darkness, you use them more and forget more!

Get those shovels out! Shoveling is great exercise, uses no fuel, and provides some quiet time. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from shoveling, use a battery power snow blower, share a snow blower with a neighbor, or have a service clear your property. As kids, my two brothers and I made pocket money shoveling.

Our mother frequently gave us one or two addresses we were to do first and take no money! Doing for others started early in the Kurtz family. Also, keep an eye on neighbors and help out where you can.

Long term

Install new windows. Leaky/drafty windows are one of the main sources of heat loss.

Switch to a whole house heat pump or mini split. This will significantly reduce your carbon footprint while provide heating AND cooling.

Upgrade your insulation. There are many programs to help you determine what is needed and to help you get it installed.

On another note: thanks to the *two* Rotarians who responded to last month's note...

- Evan Kurtz

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Empire MD PETS

This year's Empire Multi-District President Elect Training Seminar (MD PETS) is shaping up to be an incredible learning opportunity for all who attend, but who is invited to this event? Despite our name, everyone is welcome! Clubs have already paid for their President Elect (the person slated to be your president in 2024-25) to attend, but if they are unavailable, you can send anyone else from your club. It is a great opportunity for the current president to get a refresh and finish their term strong. It would also be an immersive experience for a new member looking to learn a lot more about Rotary.

Is your club really good at succession planning and you already have your president chosen for 2025-26 (known as the President Nominee)? They would be a good substitute if your President Elect (PE) is unavailable, or you could choose to send them in addition to the PE at a cost of \$300 to cover their meals and registration for the whole weekend. In fact, that \$300 registration applies to all additional members or guests you want to send, or perhaps you will want to sign up yourself! Lastly, we invite all Assistant Governors in our host districts (7120, 7150, 7170 and 7190) to attend with no registration cost.

No matter your role - PE, PN, AG, speaker, committee member, or guest - **registration is required**. While many have been pre-paid for already, we still need to know if you are coming! Get signed up at www.RotaryEmpireMDPETS.org today.

In addition to registration, you may need a place to stay while in town for the weekend, so we've arranged for excellent room rates at our host hotel, the DoubleTree on Carrier Circle in Syracuse. Booking your room is separate from registration - [click here](#) to reserve your room now. **Do not wait to book with the hotel** as the room block ends a full month before the event and we cannot guarantee space or rates after that. If you know are going, you might as well book today!

Our final call to action for members who have read this far is to follow [Empire Multi-District PETS on Facebook](#). We share helpful resources for any leader, updates about our event as it is coming together, and important reminders to keep everyone on task.

We are excited to welcome an impressive roster of facilitators that includes top Rotary International leadership and the local leaders that we can call on for direct assistance well beyond the training weekend. In addition to the content our speakers will cover, there is a lot of value in the connections attendees will make, which is why we provide a lot of opportunities for socializing. ***We look forward to welcoming everyone to the DoubleTree Syracuse, March 15-17, 2024, and hope every club will send a member to take in this inspirational opportunity!***

View speaker bios, Pre-PETS dates, access the hotel booking page, see all the important dates, read the welcome message from MD PETS Chair Ralph Brandt, and REGISTER at www.RotaryEmpireMDPETS.org.

- Empire MD PETS Committee

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Club News

Norwich Rotary

Norwich Rotary Club as been busy the last couple of months. They completed 6 weeks of Saturdays in the Park with Chobani- where they sold breakfast sandwiches each Saturday morning to raise funds for their community events. They are in week 15 of their Monday night football pool/books. Some members are now preparing lunches on Saturdays in the months of November and December for Habitat for Humanity workers/volunteers at a house in the city. They donated money to 2 local charities for Christmas events Fostering Futures and SUNY Morrisville Liberty Partnerships Program. Last but not least our exchange student from Japan has now moved to her second host family.

- Catrina McKissick Ruling

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Oneonta Rotary

Oneonta Rotary ushered in the busy month of November with the Oneonta City Halloween Parade on October 31st—an event that Oneonta Rotary helped to create over 80 years ago. This year’s parade found Oneonta Rotarians judging costumes, marching in the parade and handing out cider and donuts to marchers at the end of the parade.

On November 5th, Oneonta Rotary was thrilled to bring the District 7170 Foundation Lunch to the Foothills Performing Arts Center in Oneonta. Oneonta's Operation Warm Project was one of several district grant projects featured at the event.

Just two days later, on the 7th, Oneonta Rotarians came together to sort over 200 new winter coats for this year's Operation Warm. The Operation Warm project, which began in 2009, is dedicated to keeping children warm throughout the long Oneonta winter by providing brand new winter coats to those with the greatest need. Beginning on the 8th, the coats were distributed to four area schools. From fundraising to ordering, receiving the shipment, sorting and repackaging, and



finally distributing the coats, the entire process takes almost four months. Judging from the smiling faces, it is all worth it.!



Finally, with flags waving from car windows and horns honking, Oneonta Rotarians took to the roadways from Oneonta to Unadilla on Saturday, November 11 to honor our club veterans. The parade of cars stopped at each veteran's house and placed an American flag in the ground in front of the house. The Rotary Veterans Parade began in May of 2020 when the Oneonta City Memorial Day Parade was canceled due to the COVID pandemic. Rosalie Higgins and Scott Davis wanted to make sure that our club veterans were recognized, so they created the first Oneonta Rotary Veterans Parade. Two years later, the parade was moved to Veterans Day in November to better align the celebration with the holiday.

Oneonta Rotary wishes all the clubs in District 7170 a very happy holiday season!

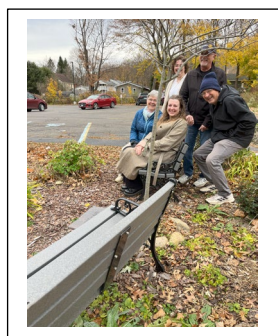
- Lynne Sessions

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Owego Rotary

On a crisp November morning Owego Rotarians and representatives of the Coburn Free Library dedicated the second part of an enhancement project to improve the once unused area behind the historic building in Owego, NY.

An eleven-foot square covered gazebo was erected by a Rotary work team near the accessible main entrance. This provides a covered area for programs, performances, and activities for children and their families. A Rotary Foundation grant fulfilled through Rotary District 7170 was the main source of funding along with financial support from Owego Rotary Club and Coburn Free Library.



In 2022, another Rotary District Grant enabled Owego Rotarians to build benches and plant a shade tree in the same garden area. This added a comfort level and a focal point for the Memorial Reading Garden which was installed by and is maintained by The Friends of the Coburn Free Library.

Multiple groups working together have allowed these project additions to increase the usability and visual impact of the space. The space is now transformed into a useful and pleasurable area at the accessible entrance to the building where patrons of all ages can participate in activities, rest, read and enjoy library-sponsored community events.

- Carolyn Wright

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Trumansburg Rotary

Trumansburg Rotary's Supermarket Sweepstakes this year was won by a visiting Rotarian from Ft. Myers, FL, Greg Scherer, who not only had the good sense to buy a ticket but had THE formula for success; scout the store aisles in advance, talk strategy, have an athlete for a son who actually did the run and bring his own enthusiastic grandchildren as a cheering squad. This resulted in an exciting three minutes and a shopping cart filled to the brim with a record number of groceries!

Tburg Rotarians had spent many hours in the six weeks leading up to the event "tabling" in the store entry way selling tickets to the community. Besides accomplishing the goal of selling tickets we know it is a great way to see old friends and raise the visibility level of Rotary. The club would like to thank all the people who purchased tickets as well as the staff of the ShurSave and, especially the new owner Ravi Meel, for allowing this fun event to continue!

- Frank Zgola

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DECEMBER IS THE TIME FOR CLUB ELECTIONS

All clubs are asked to approve their slate of officers for 2024-25 by the end of the calendar year. In addition to confirming them, please also be sure to enter them into ClubRunner so they can start to receive important district communications about training opportunities to help prepare them for their role!

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When you realize the
last day of 2023 will be
123123



AH AH AAHH!!

The Last Page . . . for reference

Chat with the DG Track



Chat with the DG Track on the **1st Tuesday of each month from 4:30-5:30pm beginning in August—this month, December 5th.** This is an opportunity for any Rotarian in District 7170 to ask questions and talk with members of our District leadership.

Visit the D7170 Events Calendar for the Zoom link: [Events | Rotary District 7170](#)



Is your Club Growing?

Let us know! Send new member(s) name, club joined, and sponsor to 7170newsletter@gmail.com.

Getting club events on our District Calendar is easy!



If your club uses ClubRunner: While creating the event post for your club’s calendar, look toward the bottom of the page and you will see a radio button labeled ‘Show Event in District Calendar?’. Select ‘Yes’ to make your event visible on the District calendar! **If your club does not use ClubRunner:** Send an email with all the pertinent information to 7170Calendar@gmail.com. Include title, date, times, location, costs, event description, and a point of contact. If a point of contact is not provided, the default will be the club president. It may be several days before this gets seen and posted, so please allow time.

And remember Social Media!

Do you have a large collection of photos to share? Send an email to Wendy Deis at wendygirl201@gmail.com to get them posted to the [D7170 website](#) and the [D7170 Facebook page](#) along with your story!

MONTH	ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES
Dec 2023	Disease Prevention and Treatment Month
Jan 2024	Vocational Service Month
Feb 2024	Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

Source: <https://my.rotary.org/en/news-media/calendar>

Submission and publication schedule for this newsletter

Soft Deadline – Send content to 7170newsletter@gmail.com by the 15 th of the month if possible.	Hard deadline – By noon on the 3 rd to last day of the month to allow time for final editing.	Publication!
Friday, December 15	Friday, December 29	Monday, January 1, 2024
Monday, January 15	Monday, January 29	Thursday, February 1, 2024
Thursday, February 15	Tuesday, February 27	Friday, March 1, 2024



Published newsletters can be found on the D7170 website on this path after being posted online: <https://rotarydistrict7170.org/> → District 7170 ▼ → District Newsletters ▼

Are you a writer?

Do you like expressing yourself with the written word? *Did you attend or participate in a club or district event, face-to-face or virtually?* **TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!** Write up a report about it and send it to: 7170newsletter@gmail.com!

Here’s what to include for a good story: **Who** is involved/invited? **What** is the event/activity? **When** did/will it happen? **Where** did/will the event/activity take place? **Why** did/will it happen? **How** did it happen? Other details? Other people to contact?

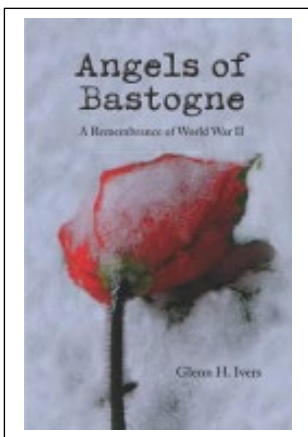
Remember to include **your name** and **your club** in the subject line! And attach **photos** if you got ‘em! 😊

District Governor: Wendy Deis
Owego Rotary
Log into ClubRunner for more info.

Editor: Christine (Chris) Haase
Ithaca Sunrise Rotary
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Join the Rotary Book Club of CNY

While he catches his breath, Jack Prior reflects upon the tumultuous winter fifty years before when he served as a battalion surgeon with the 10th Armored Division in Patton's Third Army in 1944, during what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. The events that led up to the battle are well documented: the Allied invasion of Europe at Normandy on June 6th of that year; the rout of German forces across France, Belgium, and Luxembourg during the summer and autumn of 1944; and the unexpected German attack through the heavily-forested Ardennes in Luxembourg and Belgium in December that caused a vast bulge in the Allied lines and lent the battle its name. The counteroffensive was Hitler's all-out gamble to break through thinly-held American lines; capture transportation hubs and fuel depots to accelerate his heavily armored forces; cross the River Meuse; retake the vital seaport of Antwerp; split the Allied armies in the field; and sue for peace on the Western Front.



The club launches November 1

with the inaugural book selection about Central New York WWII veteran Dr. Jack Prior and two heroic Belgian nurses who saved countless American lives during the Battle of the Bulge.

Angels of Bastogne: A Remembrance of World War II

by Syracuse Rotarian Glenn Ivers

angelsofbastogne.com

to join the book club, send an email to:

RotaryBookClubCNY@gmail.com

...the book club offers both the intellectual stimulation and the social interaction inherent in a shared experience. The club welcomes Rotarians throughout the region to join in.

Book Club of Central New York

District 7150 Governor, Elise Hereth



Multi-District PETS

March 15-17, 2024
DoubleTree Syracuse

Training for President Elects, Assistant Governors and members of Rotary Districts 7120, 7150, 7170 and 7190

Meet some of your keynote speakers!



Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario César Martins de Camargo
Rotary International Foundation Trustee Marty Helman
Rotary Zone 32 Director 2022-24 Drew Kessler
Rotary Zone 32 Director 2024-26 Chris Etienne
Rotary International Director of Membership Development Brian King

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Get signed up at www.RotaryEmpireMDPETS.org



Follow Empire Multi-District PETS on Facebook for tips, helpful resources, reminders *and so much more!*

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



District Conference
April 26-28, 2024

DoubleTree, Binghamton NY



Check us out online!

Learn more about keynote speakers, the plans for each day of conference and what is still in the works - like registration, House of Friendship and some Friday night fun!

Look for the purple banner
on your district's website
to access conference details

Let's come together and



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

<https://rotary7150.org/page/district-conference-2024>





2023-2024 BRONZE HERO AWARD
RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF

**Rotary Club of
Margaretville**

Your help provides vital aid to
vulnerable families around
the world. Thank you.

Kerni Murray



ShelterBox

Rotary
District 7170



SHELTERBOX IS A REGISTERED CHARITY INDEPENDENT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND THE ROTARY FOUNDATION.

Pakistan 2022