



THE ROTARY FELLOE

Rotary Club of Easton, Pa., District 7430
Founded in 1915 Charter # 149

President: Gordon Bigelow
President Elect: Lynn Schoof
Secretary: Andrew Bogoly
Treasurer: John David
Assistant Governor: Kathy Heller

Stephanie Urchick Rotary International President McMurray Pennsylvania, USA	Katie Farrell District Governor Warminster Pennsylvania, U.S.A.	Mary Cook District Governor Elect Collegeville Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
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1915 - CELEBRATING 109 YEARS OF SERVICE - 2024



Focus On Peace



Special Edition

July:

Rotary International welcomed new President Stephanie Urchick whose theme for 2024-25 is “The Magic of Rotary”. Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray Pennsylvania, said she saw the Magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran clean at the other end. “one of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said show me the magic again” she said.



District 7430 welcomed new Governor Katie Farrell from the Rotary Club of Warminster. Easton Rotarians Gordon Bigelow and Lynn Schoof will retain their positions as President and President Elect until December 31, 2024. John David will take over as Treasurer and Andrew Bogoly as Secretary. Board members for the 2024-2025 Rotary year are: 3-year term: Gayle Rogers, Audra Frank, Lew Fish; 2-year term: Don Lockard, Paul Braden, Mike Dowd; 1-year term: Kathy Trimble, Nick Swingle, Jean McGill.

New Easton Rotarian Sanju Choudhury entertained us with a saga of his journey to Rotary service. He spoke about how he enjoys the fellowship of Rotary but the really great thing is how it gives us the ability to help someone. *And that is what it is all about.*

Community Service: Heritage Day 2023 could be summed up in one word: “WET”. The word for Heritage Day 2024 was “HOT”. Thanks to a fortuitous drawing, Easton Rotary earned \$205 from our 50:50 ticket sales. The highlight of the day was a visit from Constance Lai who was an Easton Rotary Exchange Student to Belgium in 1989-90. She is now working in Washington DC as a preservation architect.



International Service: ShelterBox announced that District 7430 is the leading District in the United States for ShelterBox donations.

August:

We opened up the month with an evening social at the spectacular new Thyme Rooftop Grille. The meeting featured 25 attendees including spouses, prospective members, and special guests.



We welcomed District Governor Katie Farrell as she made her official visit. Her resume includes decades of community service and, following her pending retirement, she plans to be a full-time Rotarian starting in January. Above all, she intends to be a source of support for the District Clubs. Katie believes in RI President Stephanie Urchick's philosophy of adopting the 4-pronged Rotary Action Plan that includes: expanding our reach; making our Clubs more engaging and welcoming; adapting our practices to attract more members; increasing our impact. The theme for the year is the Magic of Rotary. Katie believes that the real Magic of Rotary lies in the individual Rotarians because we are the ones who make the Magic happen.



President Gordon used his extended Presidency to hand out the 2023-24 Club awards. The Rotarian of the Year Award went to Terry Pundiak for his incredible contributions to our Club. His 20-plus year Teddy Bear gifts to local oncology units, the Saturn on the Square fundraiser, and his unparalleled speaker gifts all factored into the award. Gordon also

presented Terry with a Paul Harris plus 4 recognition. The plus 4 designation indicates a \$5,000 level of Foundation support. The 2023-24 Easton Rotary Service Above Self Award was presented to BJ Metz which amounted to more of a lifetime achievement award. BJ has been involved for more than 35 years and served the Club in many capacities. He has also served Rotary in numerous capacities on the District and International Zone levels.

President Gordon presided over the official Easton Rotary induction of three Rotarians who are transferring from other Clubs. Audra Frank and Gayle Rogers joined our Club in early 2023 but were never formally inducted. Sanju Choudhury recently relocated from Pocatello, Idaho where he was a member of the Centennial Rotary Club.



Peace Project: Easton Rotary partnered with the Easton YMCA on a two-hour program about peace and love. Easton Rotarian Gayle Rogers led the way in developing the program. Other Rotary participants included Morgan McKay, Sanju Choudhury, Gordon Bigelow, Kathy Heller, and Lori Metz. The children involved ranged in age from grade 3 through 6.



September:

Rotary Jewelry: President Gordon presented Amy Korman with Paul Harris Fellow recognition to recognize her support for the Foundation of Rotary International.

Food Dept.: Gordon Bigelow, Zac Chase, and BJ Metz combined to

deliver 530lbs. of Wegman's food to the pantry at ProJeCt.

Our evening social at the Weyerbacher Tap Room featured a birthday celebration for President Elect Lynn, the semi-formal induction of Karen Hickey, and some delicious adult beverages.

The first of 5 cultural programs sponsored by Easton Rotary was held at the Bell Tower Cultural Center in Martins Creek. The program titled "The Life And Times Of Louisa May Alcott" was followed by a reception with tea and pastries.

Community Service: Members from the Easton Kiwanis, Palmer Kiwanis, Easton Lions, and Easton Rotary gathered to staff the Concession Stand at the Miracle League.

We held an evening social at the Pomfret Club. Gayle Rogers presented the completed Peace Day canvas.

A weekly lunch meeting featured an amazing presentation by Rick Bigelow, Commander USNR (Ret.) who, amongst other things is a nuclear engineer and patent attorney in private practice in Boalsburg and Nuangola,



Pennsylvania. He offered an historical perspective of the science, the people, and the politics that led us to the Manhattan Project and the dawn of the nuclear age.

Community Service: Terry Pundiak's Saturn on the Square was open for business and generating Happy Dollars.

International Service: For the 16th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating (4 stars) from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities in the United States. The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and

executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

October:

The month opened with an evening social event at Blue. The fantastic weather made it a perfect night to enjoy the ambience in the outdoor lounge.



Community Service: Darnell Davis invited his fellow Easton Rotarians to participate in the Food Giveaway sponsored by ASPIRE To Autonomy and SISU Empowering Others. 75 boxes of food were distributed at Centennial Park.



Easton Rotary joined with Rotarians worldwide to celebrate World Polio Day. Members were encouraged to time their annual polio donations during October.

Easton Rotary traveled to Wanderlust for an evening social. The night coincided with a fundraising event for ProJeCt of Easton.



October Joy: President elect Lynn revealed publicly that our soon-to-be President is also a soon-to-be mother!

Star Gazing: Terry Pundiak's telescopic endeavor produced another \$362. Fifty dollars came from Paul Biedlingmeier whose father was an Easton Rotarian.

Miracle Time: Easton Rotarians came out in force for the Miracle League Halloween Party at Easton Rotary Field. Thank you to Gayle Rogers for designing a planetary and space travel



theme for our booth entitled "Saturn on the Scare". Thank you to everyone who supported this amazing event.

District Service:

At the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Easton, PA, Rotary District 7430, held on Thursday, October 31, 2024, the members of the Easton Rotary Club in attendance adopted the following Resolution to support Jean McGill as a candidate for consideration as District Governor of District 7430 to serve for the Rotary year 2027-2028: If elected, Jean will be only the 4th Easton Rotarian to serve as District Governor.

Resolution:

Be it resolved, this 31st Day of October, 2024, the members present at a regular scheduled meeting of the Rotary Club of Easton, do hereby unanimously approve this Resolution in support of the application of Jean McGill to serve as District Governor of District 7430 for Rotary year 2027-2028; and

Resolved, further to provide the necessary and required support of Jean McGill leading up to and throughout her year in service as District Governor.

November:

Food Dept.: Zach Chase and BJ Metz combined to deliver several hundred pounds of Wegman's food to the pantry at ProJeCt.

Our evening social returned to the Wine Project after a lengthy absence. A small, but mighty, group of Easton Rotarians braved the warm and really dark weather. Tom Walton, it was noted, actually walked all the way from home to attend.

Rotary Politics: The following nominations for officers and directors will be voted on for election during the annual meeting, December 12, 2024: Directors for three year term 2025-28, effective July 1: Jean McGill, Nicholas Swingle, Kathleen Trimble. Officers for 2025-26, Effective July 1: Vice President - BJ Metz, Secretary - Andrew Bogoly, Treasurer - John David, President - Lynn Schoof (effective January 1, 2025), President elect - Audra Frank (effective January 1, 2025).

Service To Youth: Easton Rotary recognized three local young people with Student of the Month awards. The winners each received a \$400 check.

We took a road trip to join with Phillipsburg Rotary for the annual Thanksgiving Day Football Lunch. The room was filled with Rotarians, school administrators, Coaches, football players, and cheerleaders. It was a great way to celebrate this amazing community tradition that has been happening since 1905.



Community Service: Marnie Barefoot traveled to Canada but that didn't stop her from coordinating a clothing drive. Lynn Amatore and her son Michael at Lehigh Valley Drycleaning provided us with 25 bags of gently used clothing that we delivered to the Easton Salvation Army. Thank you to Lynn Schoof, Mark Haldaman, Don Lockard, and Tom Walton for handling the delivery.

Community Service: Easton Rotarians braved frigid conditions to stand outside of Sam's Club and ring the bells for the Salvation Army.

December:

Our annual meeting featured the election of officers for the 2025-2026 Rotary year. Lynn Schoof will take over as President on January 1 therefore Audra Frank will move up to President Elect at the same time. Gayle Rogers has resigned from the Board effective January 1. This leaves two open Board slots that should be filled by June 30. The Club Bylaws indicate that the remaining Directors will select people to fill out the terms of Audra and Gayle. Elected for three year terms starting July 1, 2025 are Kathleen Trimble, Jean McGill, Nicholas Swingle.

Food Dept.: Zach Chase and BJ Metz teamed up to deliver 657 lbs. of Wegman's food to the pantry at ProJect. It's a good thing Zack has a truck!

Rotary Service: Easton Rotarian Mike Dowd spoke about the unique opportunity we have to make an impact in the world through support of our Easton Rotary Service Foundation and the Foundation of Rotary International. These two entities allow us to benefit people in our local community and, indeed, throughout the world.

Happiest News: The news from the Schoof household is that, after 20 weeks of speculation, it is a boy!

Community Service: BJ & Kristie Metz represented Easton Rotary by answering the phones for the annual WAEB fundraiser to benefit the Children's Home of Easton.

The year concluded, as usual, with the Jack Bennett Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament. Chair Lew Fish has once again done a tremendous



job of organizing the event. The kickoff luncheon at the Pomfret Club featured representatives and players from six of the participating schools. Congratulations to the Emmaus Girls and the Phillipsburg Boys on their championships!



And so it is time for 2025. There is much to anticipate. We start the year with a new President and the official induction of two of our newest members. Many thanks to outgoing President Gordon for the incredible job he did over the last 1 ½ years. Keep the focus on peace and enjoy the Magic Of Rotary:

The Staff at the Felloe