

GEAR POST

Waynesboro
Rotary Club
5780

January 2021

President: Rebecca Shin
President Elect: Leonard Poulin
Secretary: Mary Ann Everly-Maupin
Treasurer: Laurie Landes
Immediate Past President: Lowrie Tucker
Directors: Dick Clark, Vonda Lacey,
Charlie Guggenheimer, Frank Carey
Gear Post: Francine Johnston



Happy New Year!

Save the Dates

Charter Night will take place at noon on **January 21st**.
All club meetings will be 100% virtual for the month of February.

December 3rd



Club Assembly

At the halfway point of her presidency Rebecca Shin reviewed our club's achievements during the pandemic. We have enjoyed speakers from distant locations, added new members, held a successful fundraiser, contributed service to the community, and maintained donations to our foundation. Rebecca ended with a timely quote from Paul Harris, "This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."



Coat Drive

AJ Young thanked the club on Dec 3rd for donating over 50 coats to the annual coat drive started by him and his wife Adrienne. Lots of warm socks, hats and gloves were donated as well. The winter wear will be distributed through the WARM shelter and Valley Mission.

December 10th



New Member talk and the Salvation Army

Our newest member, Rachel Pruitt, told us a bit about herself and talked about her experience in South Africa which changed the trajectory of her life and led to her current job as Corps Officer of the local Salvation Army. Service and integrity are important to her and she sees them both in Rotary and the Salvation Army. Rachel reported that more families than ever have appealed this year for help with rent, utility payments, food and Christmas gifts.

December 17th



Election Results and Holiday Entertainment

Our final meeting of 2020 met only via zoom due to icy road conditions and we held our election online. Congratulations to our new president elect, Barrett Owen and returning treasurer Laurie Landes. New directors will be Tracy Straight and Celine Reid. The Wayne Theater supplied us with a preview of the radio play *A Christmas Carol* and a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* by staff and friends.

January 7th



Assistance for Small Businesses

Alex Anderson has visited the club in person but zoomed for his presentation on the Staunton Creative Community Fund. SCCF provides support through startup loans, training programs, and coaching to local entrepreneurs. While it began in Staunton in 2008, it now serves a number of counties north and south of us in the valley. Alex asked our help by spreading the word, attending events, and serving as a mentor or guest speaker. You can read about many success stories at their website.



Club Rings in Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive

Laurie Landes was one of many who rang the Salvation Army bell outside Walmart this year. 35 members of our club plus family and friends put in over 60 hours of their time and raised **\$6,802** during the Red Kettle Drive (that's an average of \$113 per person). Last year the Salvation Army raised about \$81,000 during their major fundraiser. This years' goal was to raise \$82,000. They fell short at **\$72,000** but felt that under the circumstances it was still a great success. Special thanks to Charlie Guggenheimer who encouraged our participation and rang himself for 16 hours.



Feed 10 Million Rotary Challenge

Volunteer hours and financial contributions from club members to local hunger relief agencies such as Blue Ridge Area Food Bank or church pantries have added up to 61,173 meals (1 volunteer hour = 10 meals, \$1 = 4 meals) as of early January. With additional contributions from members we can help meet our district's goal to provide 500,000 meals by the end of June 2021. Report volunteer hours or donations to Nancy Whitlock.

Notes from the Board

A special election will be held on January 28th for secretarial positions to complete the 2021/2022 board. Sarah Paiste has been nominated for Executive Secretary and Margaret Hersh has been nominated for Club Secretary. This delay in our election arose when the board decided to reconsider the traditional roles of Secretary and Assistant Secretary. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to write a recommendation for an amendment to our bylaws and to establish new job descriptions to take effect on July 1st.

Due to rising numbers of Covid-19 case numbers in our area the board issued a survey to members asking for input on future meetings.

Our club will contribute \$250 toward Rotary District 7670's Rotarians Against Hunger Project. They partnered with Seed Programs International to provide vegetable seeds to fellow Rotarians worldwide.