

GEAR POST

Waynesboro
Rotary Club
5780

June 2023

Acting President: Rebecca Shin
Secretary: Sarah Paiste
Treasurer: Laurie Landes
President Elect: Vonda Lacey
Directors: Tracy Straight, Troy Hamilton, Jim White and Meg Huebeck
Gear Post: Francine Johnston & Michelle White



Dates to Remember

The annual fundraiser will be scheduled for the fall.

May 11th



Fun and Games for Fellowship

Lowrie Tucker greeted us by asking us to draw a color card for a table. This was designed to mix up seating to get acquainted with different members. After the usual business conducted by Rebecca Shin, we used cards from a deck called *Questions for Humans* to get to know our tablemates. (Examples: *What was your first job? Do you have a tattoo?*) That was followed by two rounds of *Pictionary* where one person at each table drew clues for a given word. A good time was had by all!

May 18th



Suggestions for Employers

The nature of the workforce has changed since the pandemic and Human Resources consultant Lainie Mobbitt came supplied with tips for small businesses on how to recruit and retain employees. Along with ideas such as working from home and hybrid roles she emphasized the importance of leaders meeting with employees regularly and making accommodations for mental health. Companies need to examine their values and culture and get employees involved.

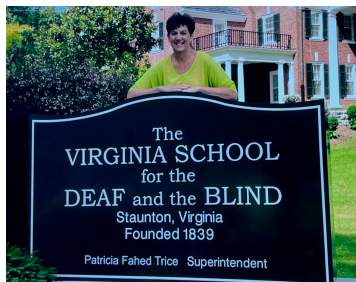
May 25th



Caravanserai

Siblings Kevin, Owen and Mary McCoy provided us with music this week. They represented Caravanserai, a new organization whose goal is to promote "compassion and community through musical performances". Director Yi-Ping Chen and board president Sarah Mendonca talked about the need in our community for a youth orchestra program. Caravanserai hopes to fill this need and provide free concerts at area locations to increase interest in classical music.

June 1st



Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB) Updates

Past president Thea Jordan will be leading our meetings in June. Superintendent Patricia Fahed Trice brought us news from VSDB today. This publicly supported PreK-12 school, located in Staunton, has 70 residential and day students. When it opened in 1839 it was the first school for deaf and blind students in the nation. In addition to academics, students are trained in life skills, independent living and workforce skills. Patricia seemed especially proud of its' blind soccer team, one of only two in the US. She invited us all to come visit.

June 8th



Solutions Place

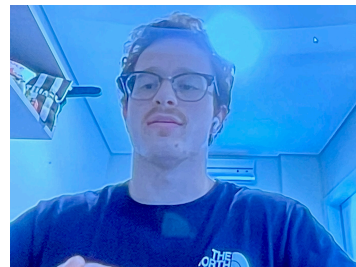
John Fuller, Executive VP of REO Processing, is seeking tenants for the old GE/Genicom industrial park now known as Solutions Place. He shared some history of General Electric, including how Dr Louis T. Rader, the plant manager back in the early 60's, used his influence as a business leader to ensure that city schools were integrated smoothly. After John and his family bought the complex, they needed to address hazardous waste issues and bring the buildings up to code. Now they are hoping to again make it a center of innovation and high tech jobs.

June 15th



The Arc of Augusta County

Tosha Berry, executive director, joined us to speak about the Arc of Augusta which has served individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1960. They provide educational, social, recreational and advocacy services in the SAW area. One in 6 kids and about 10 percent of adults are diagnosed with disabilities. The Arc is always looking for volunteers. Their next event is July 2 and is a Special Olympics watch party. Find them at facebook.com/TheArcofAugusta.



Rotary Exchange Students

Former exchange student Klaus Boeger joined us from Brazil via ZOOM on June 8th to thank the club for hosting him six years ago and to bring us up to date on what he has been doing. The families of Sarah Paiste, Chad Hatter and Frank Carey will host Dima Shevel, a Ukrainian exchange student, starting in July. An additional host is needed for late spring.



Annual Cookout

Kathleen and Bill Heatwole hosted us at their camp on May 17th May just outside town for our annual cookout. Members brought sides and desserts to add to grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. It was a perfect late spring evening for getting together.



New Member Social

New members and more established members alike met at Basic City Beer Company on Wednesday, May 31. The group chatted and got to know each other better. Each person introduced themselves and explained what brought them to Rotary and what they would like to get out of it. It was a relaxing event to get to know everyone better. They enjoyed good food, friendship, conversations and some sunshine!

Notes from the Board

Current and new board members met at the Wayne Theater for a retreat June 3rd and approved the budget for the coming Rotary year.

