

GEAR POST

**Waynesboro
Rotary Club
5780**

November 2021

President: Leonard Poulin
President Elect: Barrett Owen
Secretaries: Sarah Paiste & Margaret Hersh
Treasurer: Laurie Landes
Immediate Past President: Rebecca Shin
Directors: Frank Carey, Celine Reid, Tracy
Straight and Anne Hudlow
Gear Post: Francine Johnston



Dates to Remember

Our club will be ringing the Salvation Army bell at Walmart December 3rd, 4th, 10th and 11th. Everyone is needed to fill the 1-hour time slots.

October 28th



Carl Kirby and Drake Selmer

Old member/New Member Talks

Carl Kirby has been a member of our club for 28 years and he had perfect attendance for the first 25! He reflected on why he joined Rotary (members at that time did not have to sell anything!) and the changes he has seen in the club. Carl soon will be retiring from 51 years in the construction business. In his talk, new member Drake Selmer, emphasized what a lucky life he has led. He grew up in a remote part of Alaska and worked primarily in the military as a pilot of both jets and helicopters. Read more about Drake in the new member profile below.

November 4th

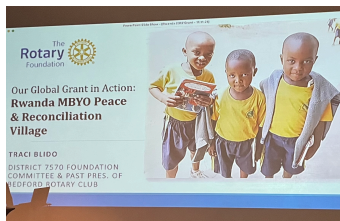


Dr Keiper shows tentative plans

Virginia Museum of Natural History Update

Dr Joe Keiper, Executive Director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) joined us from Martinsville to give us an update on the Waynesboro Campus and why they have high hopes for attracting a lot of visitors to the area. The current step is to develop a detailed plan, raise additional money, and start work in 2022/23. Exhibits at the museum will be specifically designed to highlight local natural assets. Len Poulin then talked about the impact VMNH might have in terms of science and technology education as well as future jobs.

November 11th



Global Grant Supports Change in Rwanda

Rwanda is slowly recovering from the widespread genocide of 1994 with the help of peace and reconciliation efforts such as the \$37,000 RI Global Grant awarded to the Bedford Rotary Club. Former President Tracy Blido joined us to talk about her firsthand experiences when she traveled there to see how schools, trade schools and animal husbandry can contribute to political stability and financial security.

November 18th



Stephanie Aubert joined us from Grasshopper Landing, a farm in New Hampshire dedicated to introducing children, particularly from the underserved community, to the natural world. She gave us a theoretical framework for regenerative agriculture, ecological literacy and community transformation. Regenerative agriculture for example, would not only produce food, but also improve the quality of air, water and soil at the same time. Summer camps and afterschool programs

are designed to get kids involved at an early age. Stephanie is currently working on developing an archive of educational materials.

Notes from the Board

The Augusta Regional Dental Clinic was awarded a check for \$1100 - \$500 was from the club and \$600 from individuals. Attendance continues to be an issue of concern to the board. It is easy to make up absences by watching the videos of meetings available at the website. Be sure to report makeups to Sarahpaiste@gmail.com.

Proposed Member

Nominee: Nicole Overton **Employed by:** Fishbourne Military School
Classification: Education Administration **Proposed by:** Carl Kirby

If there are no objections submitted, in writing, to the Board within ten days of this notice, this individual shall be duly qualified for membership in the Rotary Club of Waynesboro.



New Member: Kerri Garrison

Welcome to Kerri Garrison, nominated by Dick Clark. Kerri is currently Vice President of Planning & Delivery for Highmark BlueCross BlueShield and has been at the company for 25 years, starting as an intern during a master’s degree program at SUNY Albany. Kerri grew up in a small rural town in New York about 60 miles north of NYC and moved to Waynesboro to be closer to her parents and to escape the long, cold, snowy winters of Buffalo NY. She enjoys kayaking, biking, hiking, reading and tent camping so Waynesboro is a perfect place!



New Member: Drake Selmer

Welcome to John Darke Selmer, another Dick Clark nominee. Drake was born and raised in Alaska where he trained as a pilot while he was in high school. He first came to Virginia while serving at Langley AFB in Hampton where met his wife, Stephanie, of 17 years. Retiring from the Air Force in 2014, Drake spent the next few years working for the Navy in Maryland before finally making it to Waynesboro in 2020. His son, Aidan, is tackling his PhD in English Literature at Rutgers University. Now fully retired, Drake tinkers with motorcycles and woodworking and frustrates himself on the golf course.



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CHANGE LIVES**