

GEAR POST

**Waynesboro
Rotary Club
5780**

Sept 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



August 12th



Adventures in Africa

Area 4 Governor Kim Snyder and her husband Brett reported on their recent trip to Africa. The first item on their “Double Bucket List” was to hike up Mount Kilimanjaro – the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. This was a guided 7-day trip, 6 days ascending slowly to acclimate to the 19,000 foot elevation, and one day down. The second item on their list was a safari in the Sarengeti where they were able to see lots of wild animals and amazing views.

August 18th



Len Poulin opens the meeting

District Governor's Visit to Area 4

Our club hosted the annual meeting of Area 4 clubs with DG Tara Ellis joining us virtually. Len welcomed everyone while the prayer, pledge, and 4-Way test were led by other area presidents. Sean Zirkle, president of the new Skyline Connections Club, called for happy dollars. After Tara’s address she was presented with a check for \$500 from the area clubs. A buffet was followed by a sneak preview of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* that will be presented at Wintergreen by the Wayne Theatre in the coming weeks.

August 26th



Dick Schilling chats with our speaker

Center for Justice and Peace Building at Eastern Mennonite

Loren Swartzendruber, who has served as the president of EMU, joined us to talk about an institute that brings people together from all over the world to develop skills in building peace. Loren talked with pride of Leymah Gbowee who did graduate work at EMU and won the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for bringing together Muslim and Christian women in Liberia to end years of civil war. In a different role, Loren recently helped to put solar panels on several Waynesboro school buildings.

September 2nd



Chanda McGuffin from RISE

RISE is a social justice organization founded by Chanda McGuffin and Sharon Fitz in 2017 to help uplift the black community. Much of its mission involves children, and Chanda spent her time with us describing the facilities and programs designed to enhance the confidence and literacy skills of students from PreK to High School. RISE has a library of books featuring African Americans and they provide after school tutoring and a summer reading camp.

September 9th



Virginia NORML

JM Pedini is the Development Director of Virginia NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws). Lynn Harris introduced our speaker, who began with an overview of legislation that began in 1979 by legalizing medical use. As of July 2021; private use, possession, and limited cultivation (4 plants per household) are now legal and retail sales are in the works. Legalization will reduce arrests and incarcerations while the state will collect a sales tax of 21%.

Notes from the Board

With help from a matching district grant, \$1,000 from the Staunton Rotary Club, and \$3,000 from private donors, we will have \$13,000 to renovate and update the facilities of the LPN training program at Valley Career and Technical Center. Watch for opportunities to provide hands on service. Due to surging numbers of Covid cases, meetings will return to the format used last spring, eating at separate seats in the auditorium instead of at tables.



Follow-up to Service Project at Creative Works Farm

Kelly Truxell, Director of Creative Works Farm, reports that the campers at Camp LIGHT made good use of the new classrooms over the summer. They were able to learn about animals and enjoyed the tree nook and colorful floors. She sends her thanks for the work we did to create these spaces.



Feed 10 million Challenge

DG Tara Ellis reminded us at her area visit that District 7570 is hoping to provide 1,000,000 meals as part of Rotary International's World-Wide Hunger Initiative. With 2900 area members and at a cost of \$1 for 4 meals that translates to about \$85 from each. Donate money or time to places like the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Food Pantries or Meals on Wheels. Report donations and volunteer hours to Nancy Whitlock.

Proposed Members

Nominee: Drake Selmer

Classification: Retired

Employed by: US Air Force

Proposed by: Dick Clark

Nominee: Kerri Garrison

Classification: Retired

Employed by: Blue Cross Blue Shield

Proposed by: Dick Clark

If there are no objections submitted, in writing, to the Board within ten (10) days of this notice, these individuals shall be duly qualified for membership in the Rotary Club of Waynesboro.