

GEAR POST

Waynesboro
Rotary Club
5780

September 2023

President: Vonda Lacey
Secretary: Sarah Paiste *Assistant:* Kerri Garrison
Treasurer: Jodi Tibbs
President Elect: Lora Hamp
Directors: Meg Huebeck, Erica Sayers, Tracey
Straight and Jim White
Gear Post: Francine Johnston & Michelle White



Date to Remember

The fundraiser is scheduled for **October 27th** (details below). Pints for Polio will be in Waynesboro on **October 17th** at 3rd Generations Grill.

August 10th



Riley Wagner: Skelton/Jones District 7570 Scholarship Applicant

Lora Hamp introduced Riley Wagner. Our club will be supporting his application for a \$35,000 scholarship to do graduate work in England. Riley attended WHS and went on to get a degree in engineering at Princeton. He has worked in both Peru and Argentina to develop sustainable systems that provide clean drinking water for rural communities. His goal is to work in developing nations to create a net zero economy. Riley is an impressive mix of scholarship and service!

August 17th



Diana Williams on Local Schools

Safiya Jarvis introduced Diana Williams, past chair of the Waynesboro School Board, who brought us some updates from our local system. We have a diverse group of about 3,000 students who speak 13 languages. All students are offered a free breakfast and lunch paid for by grants because of the high percentage of needy children in our area. Diana reported that teacher recruitment and retention is good, but bus drivers are needed. The biggest challenge? Underfunding, of course.

August 24th



Catching up with LIFEworks

AJ and Adrienne Young provided an update about their latest project – the River City Bread Basket. They began by reminding us of why they started their nonprofit: to Lift up neighbors, to Inspire, to Fulfill needs, and to Empower others. Food insecurity is one of their biggest concerns. They are already involved in delivering food to public housing in the area, but they are now creating a local “client choice food pantry” where families can come during convenient hours. They have a number of partners, but seek additional funds and volunteers.

August 31st



Black Bear Composting

If you have no space or desire to compost on your own, you can contract with Black Bear to pick up yard wastes and food scraps. Eric Walter joined us today to talk about the business that he started in 2010. Black Bear collects food from restaurants, schools (such as UVA), and grocery stores; combines it with leaves and mulch; and creates rich compost in 3 to 4 months at their facility north of town. Food dumped

into your trashcan ends up in landfills where it emits methane gas – much worse than carbon dioxide for the environment.

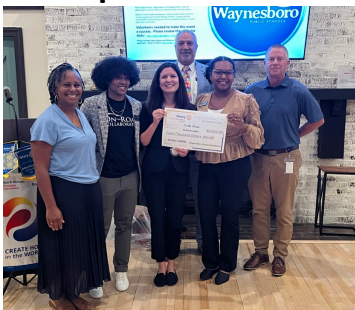
September 7th



Shenandoah National Park Updates

Patrick Kennedy, Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, joined us today. He shared some history of the park, established in 1935, and why a park in the Eastern United States was needed at a time when most National Parks were out west. He talked about the challenges faced by SNP and how visitation will soon be limited at Old Rag – one of the areas that is getting “loved to death”. Patrick also pointed out how local communities benefit from the tourists’ dollars. We are fortunate to have such a natural resource close by!

September 14th



On The Road Collaborative Gets \$8,000

We first heard from Angela Mickens, Director of On The Road Collaborative, about a year ago and then again in March. She was especially glad to be back with us, along with other school personnel, to accept a check for \$8,000! Erica Sayers helped win a \$4,000 district grant that our club matched. The grant will fund materials such as robotic kits, laptops, and cameras for technology-based career enrichment programs at KCMS and WHS. Angela invited members to become a “Community Teacher” to share their careers with students.

Notes from the Board

Kerri Garrison will begin serving as Assistant Secretary. We donated \$500 to the Augusta Regional Dental Clinic.



Kerri Garrison and the Paistes visit

Area 4 Networking and Social

AG Kim Snyder invited Area 4 members to join her August 30th for a chance to see old friends and meet some new ones. It was a lovely evening on the patio at Orchard Creek to enjoy some pizza and drinks. Wish more of our club could have been there!



Erica Sayers and hostess Kim Snyder



Annual Fundraiser Coming Up!

Mike Meadows, Hilary Quesenberry and Chad Hatter are off to the races! The Fall Triple Crown Festival will take place Oct 27th at the Foundry. There will be races, betting, food, spirits and a live auction. Your organization can sponsor a table for VIP seating and advertising. Come in costumes - fancy derby hats can win a prize. Tickets are \$100 and all members need to sell tickets to family, friends and colleagues!

Proposed Member

Nominee: Anna Koech Stowers **Classification:** Human Resources
Proposed by: Erica Sayers and Vonda Lacey

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.

