

PRESS RELEASE:

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LOCAL ROTARIAN PRESIDES OVER ROTARY DISTRICT 7120 CONFERENCE

Approximately 250 Rotarians from 70 local clubs, stretching from Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania border, and their guests gathered to celebrate District 7120's Rotary year under the leadership of District Governor Michael Slovak, Bath Rotarian, at the District 7120 Conference held May 3 – 5 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Pocono Manor, PA.

At the opening of the conference the attendees enjoyed a Parade of Flags by the Rotary Youth Exchange students. The parade was a most joyous and colorful event as the Rotarians celebrated the young people who had traveled to the U. S. to spend this past year learning about our culture and the American students who will travel to many countries throughout the world for the upcoming school year. Joaquin Ellena from Argentina spoke on behalf of all of the exchange students about the positive experiences she and her fellow exchange students had encountered.

On Friday night Dan Berlin from Fort Collins, CO and cousin of an Avon Rotarian, relayed his experiences as a blind endurance athlete, successful business entrepreneur, and motivational speaker. His journey through life, although diagnosed with a retinal condition at a young age and re-diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy in his early thirties, amazed and inspired the Rotarians and their guests. He recounted some of his accomplishments: climbing to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2 days in the dark to simulate low vision for the guides; running, cycling, and kayaking over 100 kilometers along the Great Wall of China; completing double, ultra-marathon trails on both islands of New Zealand; bicycling across America in 7 days, 15 hours, and 3 minutes. His journey indeed challenged all present to tackle whatever comes their way.

Jennifer Jones, Rotary International Vice-President 2016 – 2017, from Windsor, Ontario, Canada was live-streamed into the banquet room on Saturday night in order to extend Rotary International's heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a successful conference as well as to introduce the evening's keynote speaker, LaShonda Brown Delivuk from Lynchburg, VA, a rapidly rising star in Rotary. LaShonda's presentation was very inspirational and reminded all Rotarians how impactful their service is to their communities and the world. She concluded her presentation with these very thoughtful and stirring words – "Light yourself on fire with passion, and they will come from miles to see you burn."

Friday night all enjoyed the outstanding performance by Brad Ordway and his daughter and granddaughter, Aubri and Mia Enders. Ordway, a native of Hornell, is a well-known singer/songwriter who performs in many venues across the Southern Tier. He is well-known for

his song "The Pledge" which he performed during the opening session of the Presidents' Banquet.

Saturday night Marian Murphy Powell, a graduate of Avoca Central School, entertained those in attendance with a vast array of vocal selections. Powell is an accomplished singer and theatrical artist who brings a versatile background to her work on stage, into the teaching studio, and to her directing. She is a veteran of national Broadway tours and major regional theatre productions. Her career has taken her to many stages here and abroad and to other venues, such as churches, cabarets, cruise lines, theme parks, dinner theatres, and benefit concerts. Regina McAllen, a renowned pianist who was personally invited by President Barack Obama to perform at one of his White House Holiday Receptions along with a private performance, was Powell's accompanist for the evening's entertainment.

Those in attendance at the conference also participated in several plenary and breakout sessions, a business meeting, receptions, banquets, and a silent auction which raised funds for The Rotary Foundation. In their free time the Rotarians, their families, and guests enjoyed viewing several clubs' service project displays, a walking tour of the resort's artwork brought directly from Africa by the owners of the resort, a chef's demonstration and tasting at the resort's Sortino's Italian Kitchen, and exploring the resort's indoor waterpark, the largest in the U. S.

On Sunday, the final day of the conference, an Ecumenical Service, A Celebration of Life, was held in memory of the 35 District 7120 Rotarians who had passed away within the year. Rev. Eleanor Collinsworth, Pastor of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Bath and a Bath Rotarian, led the worshippers in the service. Collinsworth and Nancy Latour, also a Bath Rotarian, were part of the service's choir.

The Bath Rotary Club garnered the following awards at the conference: Club Service Award, 1st place, Bath Membership Development; Community Service Award, 3rd place, Bath Quality of Life; District Literacy Recognition Award; District Simplified Grant to be used for the purchase of a Krayola Kiosk, a computer learning center for children, for the Avoca Free Library whose director is Justin Zeh, a Bath Rotarian.

Those Bath Rotarians who attended the conference and their roles as members of the host club for the conference were: Michael Slovak, District Governor; Joanne Sheehan, Conference Co-Chair and Treasurer; Elaine Tears, Conference Co-Chair; Nancy Latour, Conference Secretary; Eleanor Collinsworth, Memorial Service Pastor; Jane Russell, Reception and Menu Coordinator; Cheryl Muller, Conference Tote Bag Coordinator; Dave Stewart, Rotary Check-in Registrar; Carol Berry, Bath Rotary Club President; Robin Lattimer. Also attending were Jo Slovak, Mark Collinsworth, Woody Latour, Steve Sheehan, and Nancy Stewart.

Rotary, the world's first service club, as well as the largest, with over 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, is an international organization of business and community leaders, influencers, and organizational decision-makers who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

The Bath Rotary Club, chartered in 1923, is proud to follow the ideal of "Service Above Self" and meets every Thursday at noon in the Empire Room of the Dormann Library.

(Please see the next page for 2 pictures of the same shot. Please choose the one that you feel is best. The cutline for both pictures is the same; it is only printed below picture #1.)



Bath Rotarians attend Rotary District 7120 Conference May 3 – 5 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center. Standing left to right are: District Governor Michael Slovak, Jo Slovak, Jane Russell, Elaine Tears, Robin Lattimer, Nancy Latour, Joanne Sheehan, Eleanor Collinsworth, and Dave Stewart. Absent from photo are Carol Berry and Cheryl Muller.

