

Interact

Rotary District 7305



NOVEMBER 2023



Rotary District 7305 INTERACT DISTRICT CONFERENCE Thursday, October 12, 2023 Greensburg Country Club

It truly was a magical day! There were 202 registered for this year's District 7305 Interact District Conference. The entire District 7305 Rotary Leadership Team was in attendance: District Governor John Hartman, District Governor-Elect Dan Dougherty and District Governor Nominee Felicia Mycyk. Felicia was our Keynote Speaker and as usual did a fabulous job.

Our breakout sessions included: Build-a-Chair, ShelterBox, Rotary Opportunities (which included Youth Exchange, RYLA, Scholarships, EarlyAct and The Rotary Foundation), Peacebuilder Clubs, Meet your Interact Board, Action for Animals, Interact Advisors and the Ukrainian Orphanage Project.

The Interact Club of North Allegheny High School was named the 2022-2023 Interact Club of the Year while Somerset Area Interact Club, Our Lady of Sacred Heart Interact Club and Greater Johnstown Interact Club were all named Outstanding Interact Clubs for the 2022-2023 Rotary Year. Be sure to read "Got Sneakers" to find out who collected the most sneakers and who won the prize at the District Conference.

Thanks to your Interact Board of Directors for all of their hard work to bring to you a "TOP NOTCH" Conference: Interact District Governor Angel Qu,



Interactors and their Advisors from North Allegheny High School proudly show off their tags from our Caring Tree at the Interact District Conference. Each "tag" contains information about a Ukrainian orphan. In total we are "adopting" 71 orphans for Christmas from three different orphanages in Ukraine.

Please remember that your unwrapped gifts are to be dropped off at either Mark Barnhart's house at 505 E. Pittsburgh Street in Greensburg or to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Pittsburgh at 109 South Seventh Street (Southside Flats) in Pittsburgh, PA 15203. The drop-off times for either location will be on **Saturday, November 25 between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.** If there are any questions, please contact Mark Barnhart at 724-396-5078.

You are asked to have each orphan's gifts in separate plastic bag and to include their "tag" in the bag with the gifts. ALSO, please attach or write the orphan's ID# on the outside of the plastic bag.

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("District Conference" continued from Page 1)

Allie Mock, Ian Smith, Cassidy Griffith, Dharini Maruthu, Ava Poulliott and Izzy Hamm. The current Interact Board of Directors elected several new Directors who will assume their new positions on July 1, 2024. The new Directors-Elect are: Francesca DePalma, Avalon Peters and Ronald Stout. We congratulate Dharini Maruthu from the South Fayette High School Interact Club who was elected to serve as the Rotary District 7305 Interact District Governor for the 2024-2025 Rotary Year.

We also need to **THANK** those who placed ads in our Conference booklet: The Rotary Club of Somerset; The Rotary Club of Johnstown; The Turtle Creek Valley Rotary Club; The Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export; The Rotary Club of Delmont-Salem; The Rotary Club of Northern Cambria; The Rotary Club of Scottdale; Lawrenceville Vision Care; Rotarian Pat Shaffer and Interact District Chair Mark Barnhart.

Last but not least we need to **THANK** The Rotary Club of Greensburg for purchasing the twenty dozen donuts that were consumed at the Conference and to the members of the Rotary Club of Greensburg who gave of their time to help set-up the room(s) for the Conference and who attended to help at the Conference: Bob and Barbara Bloom, Patty Lonsbary and Sean Kunkle.

Be sure to see lots of pictures from the Conference in this issue of the District 7305 Interact Newsletter.

gotsneakers?

A Sneaker Recycling Organization



More than 1200 pounds of sneakers are being kept out of landfills thanks to the District Interact Clubs who attended the Interact Conference on October 12.

Brentwood took top honors with 280 lbs. of sneakers, followed closely by Somerset at 260 lbs. Others collecting sneakers were: Peters Township with 200 lbs., Bethel Park with 160 lbs., Greensburg Central Catholic with 80 lbs., Mapletown with 80 lbs., Conemaugh Township with 60 lbs., North Allegheny with 50 lbs., Franklin Regional with 40 lbs. and Jeannette with 40 lbs.

For being the top Interact Club, Brentwood will receive a \$100 monetary prize PLUS they have received a bench for their school made from recycled plastic.

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Did you know that your Interact Club has access to the District Interact Banner that is pictured below? There are two banners, one is located in Allegheny County and the other is located in Westmoreland County. You can use this banner at an Interact Club function to promote Interact to the public. All we ask is that you pick up either of the banners prior to your event and return it promptly following your event. If you have any questions or want to make a reservation to borrow one of the banners, please contact Mark Barnhart, District Interact Chair at 724-396-5078.



It's that time of year! Time to start making plans for our Annual District Project - Cards for Veterans.

Holiday cards will be distributed by the VFW at VA Medical Centers in Southwestern Pa. in order for veterans to receive a Holiday card on their meal tray each day of the week leading up to Christmas. Last year, as a District, we were able to provide 5,524 cards!

Remember that cards are NOT to be in envelopes and should not be of religious nature (not all veterans are Christians) and should not contain glitter.

The deadline for all cards to be turned in is Monday, December 4. This gives the VFW time to make plans to get them all distributed before Christmas.



31 OCTOBER- 6 NOVEMBER, 2022

WORLD INTERACT WEEK

#WorldInteractWeek



In September, the Interact Clubs at North Allegheny started the year by folding paper cranes out of recycled materials. This symbolic gesture honored the life of Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese girl who became a victim of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima. We completed this project and considered ways we could contribute to a more peaceful world. After making these paper cranes, we submitted them to the Students Rebuild Challenge; we earned \$425 in charitable donations that will go to national environmental organizations. Additionally, we sent handmade letters to nursing homes and Meals on Wheels which were then distributed to isolated senior citizens.



In October, our club created Trick-or-Treat bags for the students at Grandview Elementary School to give them a fun Halloween treat! Interactors also created 3D Thank-You Pumpkins with messages of gratitude for our staff and faculty at North Allegheny.



Several club members and officers attended the Interact District Conference. We were excited to learn that our school won the Club of the Year Award for 2022-23! During the conference, our members also learned about children we can support in Ukraine; we can't wait to work with other Interact Clubs around the District to send joy to the children this Christmas.





The Greater Johnstown Interact Club partnered with their sponsoring Rotary Club on October 7 to do a Fall Highway Clean-up.

Greater Johnstown Interactors hosted their Annual "Pumpkid Patch". The Interactors went to the Johnstown Elementary School and did fun Fall/Halloween activities with the kindergarten students.



Below is a photo of our Fall Cohort of JHS Interact Club members participating in the first Youth & Peace in Action training where they will become certified Peacebuilders by the end of the school year.



The deadline for articles and pictures for the Decemberr 2023 District Interact Newsletter is Monday, November 27. Items for publication should be emailed to: Mark Barnhart at mbarnhar@verizon.net