

## Sherrill Rotary Club Meeting Notes

- 12/7/17, 6 pm, Sherrill American Legion.
- Present: Bob DeWaine, Kim Frarey, Martha Group, Elise Hereth, Coach Bill McAlee, Dennis & Donna Schonewetter, and Clark & Merry Speicher. Guests: 21 VVS Students and family members.
- President Martha presided, led the pledge, and gave the invocation.
- Martha reminded everyone that the annual election of club officers will be held on 12/21/17 at our evening meeting.
- After dinner, Donna and the VVS Interact Club Officers presided over the annual Interact Pinning Ceremony. Donna instructed the group on some of the many activities of the Interact Club and praised all of the students for their many volunteer activities. The new Interact Officers were presented with Officer Pins by Donna, and the new Interact Club Members were given their pins by the Interact Club Officers. The Interact Students also received blue Interact tee-shirts.



Figure 1 — Interact President Skylar Watts and VP Alex Burger presented member pins and Donna gave out Interact Shirts.

- Interact President Skylar Watts attended the District 7150 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards training at Cazenovia College last July. She told the club and guests about this experience and how much it helped her leadership skills. Interact Advisor Donna commented that it was noteworthy that all of the RYLA Students were required to give up their cell phones for the entire Friday through Sunday RYLA event. The Sherrill Rotary Club sponsors a VVS Interact Student to attend the District 7150 RYLA each summer.
- Interact Vice President Alexandria Burger gave a presentation about her participation in the Rotary Summer Student Exchange Program last summer. Alex was paired up with a student from France. The French Student came to the USA in July and spent about a month staying with the Burger family. While in the USA the young women toured New York City, Washington DC, and did many day trips in the Central New York area. They also participated in the Annual Fibonacci Summer program. While attending the Fibonacci program, the two students were part of the team that won the entrepreneurial competition and were able to “pitch” their product idea to actual venture capitalists from the television show “Shark Tank.” At the end of the time in the USA, Alex and her French counterpart went to France where Alex lived with the French student’s family. While in France, Alex was able to tour Paris and many other French

## Sherrill Rotary Club Officers 2017-18

President:  
Martha Group  
President Elect:  
Elise Hereth  
Vice President:  
Merry Speicher  
Vice President Elect  
TBD  
Immediate Past President:  
Donna Schonewetter  
Foundation Chair:  
Clark Speicher  
Interact Advisor:  
Donna Schonewetter  
Membership Chair:  
TBD  
Program Chair:  
Scott Swayze  
Secretary:  
Dennis Schonewetter  
Sergeant-at-Arms:  
Kim Frarey  
Treasurer:  
Bob DeWaine  
Youth Exchange Officer:  
Elise Hereth

## District 7150 Volunteers

Elise Hereth: Youth Exchange Cmte  
Dennis Schonewetter: PDG, Trainer, Parliamentarian, Interact Chair, Conference and TRF Gala Committees  
Donna Schonewetter: Conference and TRF Gala Committees  
Clark Speicher: Area 4 Assistant Governor, Conference Cmte



locations. She experienced an immersion into French Culture and said that she loved every minute of her time in France.

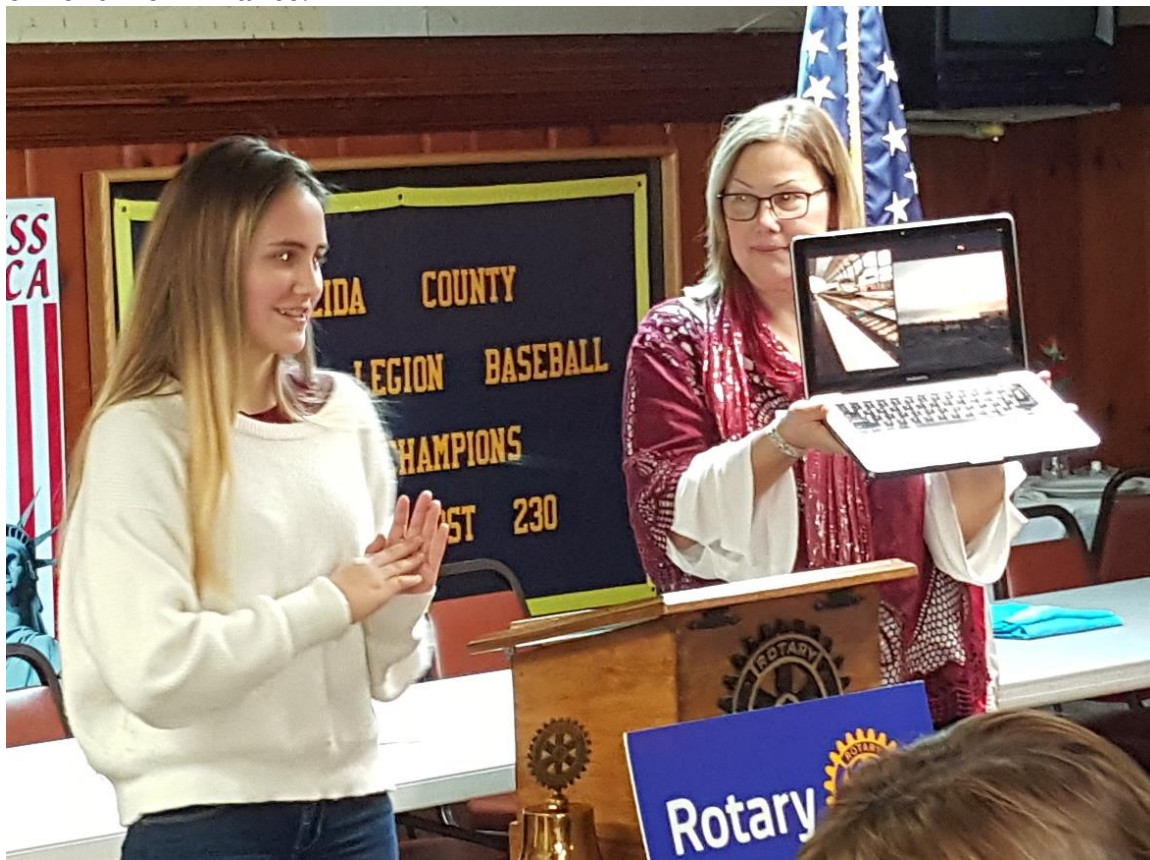


Figure 2 — Interact Vice President Alex Burger giving her presentation about her summer exchange to France, with Interact Advisor Donna assisting to show the photographs of the summer adventure.

- ⊗ Alex Burger received her VVS Student of the Month certificate this evening. She was not able to attend during October when she was one of the VVS Students of the Month.



Figure 2 — President Martha congratulating Alexandria Burger on being the October VVS Student of the Month



Figure 4 — Alex with her VVS SOM Certificate

- ⊗ There being no further business, VP Merry led the club in the Four-Way Test, and adjourned the meeting at about 7:15 pm.
- ⊗ **The next regular club meeting will be held on Thursday, 12/14/17, at 7 am, at the Nothin' Fancy Café.**



## **Pakistan and Nigeria replace paper-based reporting with fast, accurate cellphone messaging**

By Ryan Hyland

Mobile phones and simple text messaging may be the keys to victory in the world's largest public health initiative: the eradication of polio.

As the disease retreats from the global stage, thriving in only a few remote areas in three countries, it's up to health workers to deliver vaccines and share information with speed and accuracy.

Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are strengthening the lines of communication by giving cellphones to health workers in Pakistan and Nigeria, where a single text message could save a life.

In Pakistan, Rotary has been working to replace traditional paper-based reporting of maternal and child health information, including polio immunization data, with mobile phone and e-monitoring technology.

Community health workers across the nation have received more than 800 phones through a partnership with Rotary, the Pakistani government; Telenor, the country's second-largest telecommunications provider; and Eycon, a data monitoring and evaluation specialist. Organizers plan to distribute a total of 5,000 cellphones by the end of 2018.

Health workers can use the phones to send data via text message to a central server. If they see a potential polio case, they can immediately alert officials at Pakistan's National Emergency Operations Center. They also can note any children who didn't receive the vaccine or parental refusals – and record successful immunizations. In Pakistan, the polio eradication effort aims to reach the nation's 35 million children under age five.

The result is a collection of real-time information that officials can easily monitor and assess, says Michel Thieren, regional emergency director of the World Health Organization's Health Emergency Program.

"Cellphone technology signals tremendous progress in the polio eradication program," says Thieren, who has directed polio-related initiatives for WHO in Pakistan. "The data we collect needs to have such a granular level of detail. With real-time information that can be recorded and transcribed immediately, you can increase accuracy and validity.

"This gives *governments* and polio eradication leaders an advantage in the decisions we need to make operationally and tactically to eliminate polio," Thieren says.

### **Beyond polio**

Health workers also are using mobile phones to monitor a multitude of maternal and child health factors.

Pakistan's child mortality rate ranks among the highest in the world, according to UNICEF, with 81 deaths under age five per 1,000 live births.

But mobile technology can help reduce those deaths, says Asher Ali, project manager for Rotary's Pakistan PolioPlus Committee.

“Our health workers, including community midwives, are tracking pregnant mothers,” Ali says. “When a child is born, they can input and maintain complete health records, not just for polio, but for other vaccines and basic health care and hygiene needs.”

They also can monitor infectious diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, and influenza-like illnesses, as well as child malnutrition and maternal health concerns.

“If there is a problem with the baby or the mother, we can send information to the government health departments immediately, so they can solve the issue quickly and adjust their strategies,” Ali says.

Cellphones also facilitate follow-up visits with families, because health workers can send appointment reminders over text message.

### **Proliferation of phones**

Mobile phone use worldwide has spiked recently, with about 7 billion subscribers globally, 89 percent of them in developing countries, says WHO. Even people living on less than \$1 a day often have access to phones and text messaging, according to WHO. Cellphones are used more than any other technology in the developing world.

Rotary and other nonprofit organizations are leveraging this fact to boost a variety of health initiatives.

