



# THE LISTENER



Publication of the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Meet District Governor Mike Davanzo

Mike Davanzo was born in Youngstown. His family moved to Boardman, Ohio, where he attended Boardman High School. Following his graduation from Boardman he attended Kent State University to pursue his interest in classical languages.

At Kent, he majored in Latin and became a member of the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, and was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi and later was elected president. Following graduation from Kent, he shared his love of the classics with his students at Medina High School. While at Medina, he became very involved in all phases of the school. He was the advisor to a number of clubs and became the chair of the department of foreign languages.

He helped to establish soccer as a varsity sport at Medina and became its first coach. He then became the school's director of athletics.

As athletic director he became involved with the athletic directors' association and became its president and was awarded the Northeast Ohio Athletic Director of the Year in 2003. More importantly, at Medina, he met his future wife, Judy Chiamonte. They married in 1989 and reside in Medina.

Mike joined Medina Sunrise Rotary in 1996. Among the offices he held were the vice president, and president. In addition, he was the vocational chair, scholarship chair, liaison to the Medina Interact Club, and newsletter editor. He was on the steering committee for the club's major fundraiser, The Wine and Roses Benefit Dinner.

He has taken part in many of the club's activities including the International Fest, the Build A Bear Committee, Wolf Creek, Clean Up, the basketball tournament, the GSE host team, and others. On the district level, he was a sector co-chair for the GSE team, served on the finance committee, board of directors, was an assistant governor and district annual giving chair. He has attended many conferences, including the international conference in New Orleans, Portugal, and Australia. He has also served as a facilitator for All Ohio PETS.

He has continued to volunteer in his community. He is a member of Friends of the Cemetery and the Friends of the Library; he has served as its president. In addition, he and his wife are both very active in the Medina County Historical Society and have both served as its president.

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## Rachel's Challenge in third year in River

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River, Rachel's Challenge, which promotes kindness and compassion towards others, is in its third school year in Rocky River's middle and high schools.

The club provided funding to bring a Rachel's Challenge national speaker to present to the schools' students and staff and to also conduct an evening presentation for the community. Rachel's Challenge was created as a result of the loss of Rachel Scott, the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999.

Clubs in both the middle and high schools have already met to begin plans on this school year's activities. Rocky River High School's student group, Friends of River ("FOR" named after Friends of Rachel), will be walking in the Rocky River Homecoming parade on Friday, October 10. The students will be wearing neon-colored shirts which are inscribed with inspirational messages. They will be tossing candy, with attached positive messages, to the many youth watching the parade.

The high school group has also discussed the tragic bullying incident at Bay High School and is planning to show positive support and awareness of anti-bullying in conjunction with RRHS's football game against Bay in late October.

The high school group's advisor is teacher Mrs. Kristen Kainowski.

The students will again be selling candy grams at Halloween and Christmas to earn funds to benefit their projects and activities. The candy grams have positive messages attached to candy and are delivered by members of the FOR group to intended recipients within the school.

The Rocky River Middle School student group, "Be the Change," advised by teacher Mrs. Mary Fancher, has met this school year and hosted a New Kids' Party for 42 students on September 25.

In preparation for the party, the club members delivered invitations to each new student and also decorated each locker. Students attending the event participated in games and listened to music while enjoying pizza, cupcakes and cookies provided by our club.

On October 28, during the students' lunch time, Be the Change students will be hosting "mix-it-up" lunch day. This

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# The Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River

P.O. Box 770916, Lakewood, OH 44107  
<http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org>

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2014-2015

President..... Todd Lessig  
President Elect..... Lynn Donaldson  
Secretary..... Chuck Gustafson  
Treasurer..... Kanchan Adhikary  
Directors:  
2012-2015 – Phil Ardussi, Charles Eversole, Lynn Donaldson  
2013-2016 – John Clark, Vicky Foster, Tom Turner  
2014-2017 – Mark Bacon, John Clapper, Ann Sevenich  
Past President..... Phil Ardussi

## COMMITTEES 2014-2015

**Club Service** ..... Larry Yunaska  
**Administration**  
Archives ..... Thom Geist  
Attendance ..... John Latham  
Cashiers..... Larry Yunaska (chair), Julius Skerlan, Dave Zupan  
Fund Raising . Matt Daugherty (chair), Todd Lessig, Dave Zupan  
Membership/Education..... Jon Clark  
Nominations ..... Phil Ardussi, Curt Brosky, Lynn Donaldson  
Sunshine ..... John Latham  
Listener, Public Relations, Website ..... Lynn Donaldson  
District Activities ..... Jim Lechko  
Grants ..... Todd Lessig  
Speech, Music and Art Contest ..... Phil Ardussi  
Scholarship ..... Jon Fancher  
Club Foundation ..... Jim Harris  
Rotary International Foundation ..... Smitty Haller  
**Meetings & Fellowship**  
Devotional ..... Jon Fancher  
Greeters ..... David Shaw  
Music..... Charles Eversole, Jon Fancher  
Program ..... Matt Daugherty (chair), Tom Turner, Pete Shimrak  
Sergeant-At-Arms ..... John Mielke (chair), Chuck Gustafson  
Clambake ..... Vicky Foster  
Past Presidents Picnic..... Chuck Gustafson  
Wassail Bowl..... Curt Brosky  
**Community Service** ..... Todd Lessig  
**International Service** ..... Kanchan Adhikary  
**New Generations Service** ..... Jean Rounds  
Dictionary Project ..... Jay Rounds  
Rachel's Challenge ..... Jean Rounds  
Youth Exchange ..... Chris Arnold  
**Vocational Service** ..... Nancy Ralls

## LEADERSHIP 2014-2015

**Mike Davanzo**, Governor, District 6630 (Medina Sunrise)  
**Kathy Berkshire**, Assistant District Governor, Cuyahoga County  
Northwest - Lorain County (Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise)  
**Gary C.K. Huang**, President, Rotary International (Rotary Club of  
Taipei, Taiwan)

## NEARBY MAKE UP OPPORTUNITIES

Avon/Avon Lake, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. Towne Center Community  
Campus, 200 Community Drive, Avon Lake.  
Cleveland, Downtown, Thursday, Noon. Windows on the River in  
the Powerhouse, West Bank of Flats.  
Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise, Wednesday, 7:15 a.m. Umerley  
Hall, Rocky River.  
Middleburg Heights/Brookpark, Thursday, 7:30 a.m. Front Row Grill,  
15119 Snow Road, Middleburg Heights.  
North Ridgeville, Friday, Noon, North Ridgeville Senior Center, 7327  
Avon Belden Road, behind City Hall.  
Westlake/Bay, Thursday, 12:15 p.m. Porter Library, 27333 Center  
Ridge Rd, Westlake.  
West Shore (formerly Fairview/West Park/North Olmsted), Tuesday,  
Noon. Amp 150, 4277 W 150th Street, Cleveland, in the  
Marriott.  
On-line at [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org)

# President's Message

Founded in 1926, our club has a great history and great traditions. Over the following 88 years, our Rotary club has performed countless acts of kindness in our local community and internationally. Rotarians in Lakewood and Rocky River truly do make a dramatic difference.

Our club has many wonderful assets that we use to do good. First, our members are our greatest asset. Without each other, we have no club. We need members to make the decisions, do the good work, and sustain the club.

Our club's Foundation is a wonderful asset. Every year the Foundation distributes 5% of the balance for our use in doing good and making a difference. Although none of us that I am aware of donated \$1 million to our Foundation, nevertheless that's about the amount of money contained within it.

When we, as a club, distribute money every year to worthy causes and organizations, we take the credit even though we didn't put all the money in. The former Rotarians who set up our Foundation all those years ago wanted their contributions to go on in perpetuity and thanks to sound management by Foundation Boards over the years, this wonderful asset continues to help make our club one of the best in all of Rotary.

Our relationship with our communities and business and community leaders is certainly an asset of our club. From the mayors of Lakewood and Rocky River to Cleveland Metroparks and Newsradio WTAM 1100, we have many well-established relationships that enable our club to follow through with our projects.

Because we have good relations with the local school districts, we can provide new dictionaries to all third grade classes. We have many wonderful organizations who believe in Rotary so much that they are willing to sponsor most of our events. Organizations like First Federal of Lakewood, Visium Resources, and Hanson Services, to name just three.

Unfortunately, as I see it, right now our club has one problem area. We do not seem to have a pool of members who are willing to assume leadership roles within our club.

Next year, for the very first time in the 88-year history of our club, a past president will become the new president of our club. Thankfully, Lynn Donaldson was willing to serve a second term, because without him I'm not sure what we would have done.

In December, our club will need to vote on three (3) new club Board members. In the coming months, I hope if, and when, you are approached about serving on our Board you will realize the honor being placed upon you. I hope you will be willing to answer the call.

**Todd Lessig**

*Our club's mailing address is:*  
P.O. Box 770916, Lakewood, OH 44107  
*Our web site is:*  
<http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org>

## Foundation clarification, news

By Smitty Haller

Since Matt Daugherty's annual report of the Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club Foundation on September 29, Curt Brosky and Jerry Martau have earned their second Carl Dryer Award. Congratulations to both Curt and Jerry for their continued support of our Foundation.

November is Rotary International (RI) month. This is the perfect time to make a donation to RI so that our club can have 100% participation in Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY). The Rotary Year goes from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Last year we missed having 100% participation in EREY by a fraction.

This November, everyone please give a check for at least \$10 to Tom English made payable to: **Rotary International Foundation**. This will guarantee 100% participation in EREY from our club for the 2014-2015 Rotary Year.

There still is some confusion about making contributions to our local Rotary Foundation and to Rotary International.

These are two separate Foundations. The former aids the communities of Lakewood and Rocky River while the latter aids the world. When you wish to contribute to our local Foundation, make the check payable as follows: **Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club Foundation**.

All checks can be given to Tom English, who will deposit our local Foundation checks and send the RI checks to Smitty Haller for submission to RI.

### District plans Foundation event, sets GMS dates

Jim Lechko, Rotary International District 6630 Foundation Chair 2013-2016, has announced that the district's Foundation event is set for Saturday, November 9. Details will follow.

Also, Grant Management Seminars (GMS) have been scheduled for 2015-16 Rotary year District Grant requests. Each club must have two GMS attendees to meet one of the requirements to obtain a grant.

The dates for the GMSs are Thursday, January 22, Saturday, February 21 and Thursday, March 5. Times and locations will follow. The deadline to submit a district grant inquiry request for the 2015-16 Rotary year will be May 15, 2015.

### Golf outing winners named

Winners from golf outing were Rotarian Chris Arnold and his friends, Ryan Snyder, Brian Stabler and Paul Gleason.

Jack Stanton, guest of Rotarians Ed and Debbie Girman, won the opportunity to hit for a \$1MM Hole in One. He competed against Marcia Ciryak, Cheryl Vogel and Todd Lessig.

Longest Putt was won by James Kappa. Longest Drive for men was won by Chris Houdek. Longest Drive for women was won by Debbie Girman.

The outing raised over \$16,000 in total. Approximately \$10,300 of that was raised by our club.

## Club calendar

### Meetings

Remember to invite a guest to an upcoming meeting!

**September 1, Noon**

**No Meeting** – Labor Day observance.

**September 8, Noon**

**No Meeting** – Annual Golf Outing.

**September 15, Noon**

**Ohio Supreme Court Justice Terrance O'Donnell.**

**September 22, Noon**

**Exchange Student Welcome** – Oscar Lehto.

**September 29, Noon**

**Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation Annual Meeting** – Matt Daugherty.

**October 6, Noon**

**No Meeting** due to clambake social on October 7

**October 13, Noon**

**Club Assembly**

**October 20, Noon**

**District Governor Mike Davanzo.** (Bio on page one)

**October 27, Noon**

**Cleveland MetroParks Update** – Sean Mc Dermott.

### Events

**Monday, October 20, 10:45 a.m.**

**Club Board of Directors**, Umerley Center meeting room.

**Monday, December 8, 5:30 p.m.**

**Holiday Party and Wassail Bowl**, Umerley Center

### Rachel's Challenge in third year in River

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event provides an opportunity for students to interact with those that they might not communicate with on a daily basis. Be the Change students are now preparing icebreaker questions and organizing the lunch table seating.

Jean Rounds, our club's Rachel's Challenge chairperson, thanks Rotarians for their support of Rocky River's two student groups. Rotarians are invited to attend the student groups' meetings and also upcoming events. When the dates and times of the meetings and events are available they will be announced.

### Meet District Governor Mike Davanzo

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Besides being active in these and other activities he enjoys historical travel and gardening. Mike is retired from the Medina City Schools, but does work part-time at the Medina County Board of Elections and the Carlson Funeral Homes in Medina and Brunswick.

## Gift of Life receives RI grant; team in Akron for shadowing

Kenneth J. Fogle, chair of Gift of Life North East Ohio, spoke to our club about the work the organization is doing bringing children from all over the world to Northeast Ohio for cardiac surgery.

The next step for GoL was to equip medical facilities and doctors to treat the children's heart problems in their home countries.

Since Ken Fogle spoke to our club on July 21, a Vocational Training Team grant has been approved by Rotary International and seven Haitian members of St. Damien's Children's Hospital (SDCH) arrived in Northeast Ohio on September 22 to spend six weeks shadowing their counterparts at Akron Children's Hospital (ACH).

They are staying with medical personnel close to the hospital as their days start at 7:00 a.m. every weekday. Several clubs have joined together to host Saturday events so the team can also see some of the Northeast Ohio area and attend events outside of Akron.

There will be a farewell dinner for the entire team on Sunday afternoon October 26 so team members can share with the hospital and Rotary what the VTT has meant to them. Members of our club are welcome to be part of that event, and tickets have been priced to act as a fund raiser for further support in this partnership between ACH and SDCH.

Information regarding the dinner appears below.

## Six clubs hosting seven inbound students

Our club is one of six clubs in our district welcoming inbound exchange students this year. In addition to Oscar Lehto from Finland who is sponsored by our club, the students, their home countries and their clubs are: Matheus Vigilato, Brazil, Chagrin Falls; Carol Iorio, Brazil, Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise; Quintin Darras, France, Cuyahoga Falls; Snip Ming, Thailand, Medina; Vendula Jancalkova, Czech Republic, Cuyahoga Falls; and Lenart Zsadany, Hungary, Garrettsville.

## Bob Evans helps in fight against polio

Friday, October 24, is World Polio Day and Rotary District D6630 and the Bob Evans Restaurants of Northeast Ohio have joined together to help End Polio Now.

Polio still exists in three countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria) and the potential is only a plane ride away.

All day on Thursday, October 23, use the attached coupon at any Northeast Ohio Bob Evans Restaurant and Bob Evans will donate 15% of its sales to fighting polio.

You are encouraged to reproduce and distribute the coupon to family and friends to help make this event a success. The coupon is valid for both dine-in and carry-out.



**St. Damien's Children's Hospital - Port au Prince Haiti**  
**VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAM  
FAREWELL DINNER**

**Sunday, October 26, 2014 | 4:00pm**  
St. Nicholas Banquet Center 755 S. Cleveland Ave., Mogadore, OH 44260

Meet the medical teams from St. Damien's and Akron Children's Hospital and hear personal experiences and reflections from the 6-week intensive training in Akron.



Silent Auction of Haitian Crafts & artwork

Plus signed copies of Akron philanthropist Vanita Oelschalger's book available to purchase!

Tickets Online!  
[www.ach.kintera.org/haiti](http://www.ach.kintera.org/haiti)

**\$75** Dinner Tickets **OR** **\$1,000** Sponsor a Table of 8



PROCEEDS BENEFIT GLOBAL PEDIATRIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP AND GIFT OF LIFE NORTH EAST OHIO IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT ST. DAMIEN'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THE ONLY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN HAITI.

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**Rotary  
International  
"End Polio Now Day"**

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