



*Rotary Club of Trumbull Application
Charles W. Pettingill Outstanding Club Award*

2007/08 President Steve Hodson
2008/09 President Dawn Dalrymple
2009/10 President Tom Ginis

Submitted to District 7980 Leadership, April 1, 2011
by 2010/11 President Stephen Jakab



DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Raising community awareness and having fun doing it!



*Left: Action on the court; Above: Pledge of Allegiance; Bottom left: MC, Mike Redgate
Below: Winners circle*



Chartered in June of 1967, the **Rotary Club of Trumbull** exemplifies the best a service club has to offer to a community. The club meets the standards set by the Charles W. Pettingill Outstanding Club Award for the simple reason that consistently, year after year, club members use all of Rotary's avenues of service to make a difference locally and internationally. Members are personally involved in club projects and fundraising activities and 95% of club members are sustaining members of The Rotary Foundation.

AVENUE OF CLUB SERVICE

(strengthening fellowship and ensuring the smooth functioning of the club)

Club Communication

Over the three year period, communication between meetings has transitioned from a newsletter format to weekly presidential emails and more use of the club's website. Club members are made to feel welcome at Board of Directors meetings and on average make up 30 – 50% of those in attendance. The Recording Secretary reads the minutes during club and the minutes are also sent out to members via email.

Club Planning

A major strength of the Trumbull Club is that 22 of the 26 living past presidents are active members of the club today. This provides a valuable resource pool for current leadership and allows for continuity and shared mission year to year. A leadership planning survey was conducted in 2010 and the club has a succession plan for leadership development.

District Service

One of the signs of a strong club is the development of leaders who serve at the District level. Following is a list of positions held by club members at District level over the three year period:

2007-08: District Secretary; District Handbook committee; District Foundation Grants Chair, District Foundation Speakers Chair; Assistant Governor, Area 4.

2008-09: District Trainer; District Literacy Resource Group; Membership Development & Retention; Area 4 District Foundation Representative; District Foundation Speakers Chair; District Annual Fund Chair; Area 4 GSE Representative; Assistant Governor, Area 3; District Visioning Team.

2009-10: Literacy Resource Group; District Visioning Team; Area 4 Foundation Representative; District Annual Fund Chair; ; District Foundation Speakers Chair; Assistant Governor, Area 3.

And the Trumbull Club boasts the 2002/03 Past District Governor

Fellowship

Holiday parties with spouses:

*December 14, 2007 at Vazzy's Restaurant in Fairfield

*December 14, 2008 at the home of Past President, Mike Rappa's

*January 2009 – Post Holiday Party at Vazzy's in Bridgeport

*December 11, 2010 – at the home of Past President, John McBride's

Bowling with families: 1/24/08; 11/15/09 at Milford Lanes

Downtown Cabaret Theater (3/30/09) attended by over 30 members

Club Picnic (6/28/09)

Westport COUNTRY Playhouse "She Loves Me" (5/7/10)

Fellowship with other Rotary Clubs locally

*Joint meeting with Monroe Club on December 20, 2007 at Masuk High School.

***Norm Parsells Award:** Each year Trumbull Rotarians participate in the annual Norm Parsells Luncheon to honor individual members of the participating Rotary Clubs. In November Of 2009 Trumbull hosted the event at Testo's Restaurant in Bridgeport. Trumbull Rotarians honored during the three year time period include: 2002-03 club president, Michael Redgate, 2006-07 club president, John McBride and 2004-05 club president, Dr. Phil Lane. All three honorees are still active in club leadership roles. Funds received for Trumbull's year (2009) were designated for Trumbull high school students' community service projects. Applicants may receive up to \$300 for a specific project and remaining funds roll over year by year until depleted.

Off Site Meetings:

To learn more about the community and how the club can be involved and supportive of local businesses and groups in town, Friday meetings are occasionally held off site. During 2007-2010 members visited Long Hill Fire Department, Helicopter Support, Tashua Knolls, Trumbull Historical Society and Lakewood YMCA.

Membership – Trumbull Rotary has successfully maintained more than a plus net one in membership growth over the past three years.

Club membership on July 1, 2007 - 67 - Club membership on July 1, 2010 - 74

*A hallmark of the Trumbull club is the overall process of orienting potential members. Each prospective member is interviewed at length and given an orientation as to what the roles and responsibilities of Rotary membership are by the Membership Chair before his/her application is brought to Board for a vote. The membership application form has become a model for other clubs in the district.

*Each prospective member is asked to attend at least one board meeting before or shortly after joining club.

*The club membership boasts individuals in governmental and civic leadership including the past and current First Selectman, members of the Board of Finance, Cable Advisory Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Library, Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Council, the school system and the United Way.

*Members are encouraged to carry and use "Be My Guest Cards." When an individual comes with card, breakfast is complimentary.

*"Reminders" on membership responsibilities are placed periodically on top of portion of board minutes posted on the club's website.

*One club member attended "Share the Magic of Rotary" Presidential Conference on Club Growth held at Villanova University, July 2007.

* The Club Membership Roster is updated and printed yearly in an attractive tri-fold brochure.

* The club received the District Governor's citation for First Place for number of new members in clubs over 50 with nine new members - May 2010

Public Image

*As part of District 7980's Public Relations Grant, Trumbull Rotarian Karen Delvecchio made a public service announcement about Rotary on WICC 600 AM radio station.

*Weekly club meetings were frequently recorded and broadcast on the local Educational Television Channels (19 and 99).

*Notices and pictures were submitted to the local paper on a regular basis.

Rotary International Convention

*Two members of the Trumbull Club attended the International Convention in Montreal (June 2010). One served as a Sergeant at Arms. The other chaired the Fellowship of Rotarian Magicians and performed in the House of Friendship.

*And Trumbull Rotary is very proud that PDG Jim Lang was awarded the highest award presented by Rotary International, "The Distinguished Service Award" – one of up to 50 given each year throughout the world in May 2010.

AVENUE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service provides the club a platform to implement projects and activities that improve life in a community...in other words the difference Trumbull Rotarians' efforts have made in the Trumbull and beyond. On average the Trumbull Rotary Club has awarded over \$60,000 in each of the last three years to the following humanitarian efforts.

Barnum Festival Food Drive

Each year the Trumbull Club invites the "Ringmaster" of that year's Barnum Festival to speak at the club and at that time presents a check for the Bridgeport Rotary Club's food drive which takes place on the final day of the festival.

Benches

The Trumbull Rotary Club purchased and club members placed benches in town parks for residents to enjoy. Two benches were placed in Twin Brooks Park in fall of 2007 and two were placed along the newly opened "Rails to Trails" nature walk along the old Housatonic Railroad bed in 2008.

Bridgeport Soup Lady

The club has given financial support for the past three years to Linda Cervero, known locally as "the soup lady" for her dedication to feeding Bridgeport's homeless.

Builders Beyond Borders

The club supported financially Trumbull High School students who traveled with the group "Builders Beyond Borders" to Cuenca, Ecuador during 2010.

Candidates Forums

In partnership with Trumbull Chamber of Commerce and the Trumbull Lakewood YMCA, Trumbull Rotary hosted candidate forums for candidates running for local and state elected offices. 10/29/08; 10/22/09; 10/7/10

Celebration of the Arts Day

Supported financially the Daniels Farm PTA's Arts Celebration Day held 4/10/10.

Coat Drive for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission

Each year club member Duane Berge organized a coat drive for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission during November and December.

Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.)

The club purchased the T-shirts to give out at C.E.S.'s first fundraiser – a 5K road race at Seaside Park in Bridgeport on 9/27/08.

Clothesline Project

Under 2007/08 Club President Steve Hodson's leadership in 2008, Trumbull Rotary began a partnership with the Center for Women and Families (which serves Bridgeport,

and surrounding communities including Trumbull) and the Trumbull Library to highlight the impact of Domestic Violence. For the past three years, the club has given \$1,000 to defray the costs of the weeklong project. A clothesline is hung each year in October (Domestic Violence Month) on the grounds of the town municipal complex (town library and town hall) where victims and concerned others have decorated shirts expressing their feelings. At the end of the week there is a candlelight vigil to remember victims who have died because of domestic violence over the past year. For two of the past three years, Rotarians have been honored at the event for their involvement and support by the Center for Women and Families.

CPR

11 Trumbull Rotarians took a CPR class with 16 taking a 2nd class in October and November of 2007. A 50/50 raffle was held to pay the fees for members and their spouses to attend these classes.

East Coast “Assistance Dogs”

The club donated funds in August 2009 to help dog training expenses.

Fall Clean up

Several members of the club raked leaves and did lawn cleanup for seniors in the community. The number of seniors helped during the three years increased by 50%.

Fed Challenge

Begun in 2003, the Trumbull Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation is much like a booster club for competitive academic teams throughout the town's public schools. Fed Challenge team members act as the Federal Reserve Board and evaluate economic conditions and make recommendations based on their assessments. Trumbull Rotarians Dr. Philip Lane, head of Economics at Fairfield University and financial advisor, Frank Metrusky served as advisors to the Fed Challenge club (2003-2010). In 2009 the Trumbull High Fed Challenge team placed in the top 25 in the New York District.

Guy DeFeo Senior Picnic

Named in honor of a charter and still active member of the club, each year Trumbull Rotary hosts a senior picnic on the grounds of Town Hall for 200 plus senior citizens. Menu is traditional hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill by the club's "Grill Boys" and served with salads and dessert. Along with the food, seniors can come early to play bingo or enjoy musical entertainment. It is a very popular outing. The club takes the opportunity each year to hang banners representing the club's corporate sponsors who have donated \$1,000 or more during the past year.

“Green” Playground at Nature and Arts Center

On October 23, 2009 several members of the club helped assemble an all “green” materials playground on the grounds of the town's Nature and Arts Center.

Home for the Brave

Home for the Brave is 42 bed transitional housing program available to male veterans and non-veterans who are homeless located in Bridgeport. For each of the past three years, club members visited the home and cooked and served a meal for the residents.

Linus Club

The club donated monies to ladies of the Linus Club to purchase supplies to make quilts for cancer patients. 1/6/10

Literacy

*Dictionary Project – for each of the three years, club members visited 3rd grade classrooms in Trumbull and presented dictionaries to each 3rd grade student.

*The club sponsored the author reception for Trumbull's first "One Book One Town" community wide reading program on April 10, 2010.

*Trumbull Rotarian Jodie Orzechowski designed and the club donated 5,000 bookmarks to the Trumbull Library with Library information on one side and information about the Trumbull Rotary Club on the other.

*Trumbull Rotarians read at Edison School and Trumbull schools on "Read Aloud Days" during the three year time period of the application.

Make a Difference Day – Healthy Walk at Old Mine Park, 10/3/08

Members collected garbage along the trail as part of the District designated "Make A Difference Day."

Merton House

Beginning in November of 2008, members of the club volunteered to take the leftover food from weekly meetings to the Merton House in Bridgeport. The program continues to this day.

Mishkin Israel Day Camp

Club has given financial support to the camp for past three years.

Post Prom

The club has given funds to support the alcohol-free post prom party given by Trumbull High School PTA members for the past three years.

Town Concert

Beginning with the "Beach Boys" in 2004, the Town of Trumbull hosts a concert for town and area residents at Indian Ledge Park in late summer. And each year the Trumbull Rotary Club has been instrumental in the smooth operation of the evening by managing the parking for the event. The club also sells beer and wine as a fundraising activity and most recently has worked closely with the Trumbull Police Department and TPAUD (Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking) to ensure no alcohol is sold to minors.

7/23/07 – Kool and the Gang and K.C. and the Sunshine Band

8/7/08 - Styx

8/23/09 - Hall & Oates

Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking (TPAUD)

Trumbull Rotary gave financial support to underwrite the 9th Grade Student/Parent Underage Drinking Prevention Forum held on Nov. 18, 2009 held at Trumbull High School.

Trumbull's Blue Jays Challengers Little League

The club has sponsored a Little League team in town for 22 years. In honor of past club president, Ian McMillan who initiated the program, new benches were placed in the Little League field in honor of Mr. McMillan. Spring of 2009.

Trumbull High School Marching Band

The club gave funds to help defray the cost for the Trumbull High School Marching Band to travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Inaugural Parade in Washington, DC in January of 2008.

Trumbull High School Mediation Program

Members of Trumbull High School's Peer Mentoring group spoke at a club meeting and because club members felt strongly that their efforts supported Rotary's core mission of promoting peace and understanding, the club financially supported the group's attendance at the Northern Virginia Regional High School Student Mediation Conference in November of 2010.

Trumbull High School Volunteers

Past President John McBride organized Trumbull High School volunteers to collect food donations at two town supermarkets for the local food pantry during March of 2009. In November of 2009 Mr. McBride again worked with the Trumbull High School students to collect funds at the local CVS and then prepared 36 stockings to mail to troops. The Trumbull Club paid for shipping the stockings.

Trumbull Senior Center

The club purchased entry furniture for the newly renovated Trumbull Senior Center in November of 2007.

Special Olympics

Club gave seed money for Trumbull's first Special Olympics. 2/10/10

Trumbull Teachers Luncheon

Each year the Trumbull School System welcomes new teachers and the club president is asked to attend. The club has also provided financial assistance for these luncheons during the three year period.

Trumbull Special Needs Awareness Program (TSNAP)

The Trumbull Police Department introduced this new program to the community in the fall of 2008. The Trumbull club provided the necessary funds to print brochures and publicize the program throughout the community. TSNAP enables individuals to share their special needs information with Trumbull police, fire and EMS personnel through an application process.

Veterans' Day Observances

This Rotarian led event takes place every year at the Town Veteran's Memorial. Rotarians invite the community to join in honoring Veterans on Veteran's Day and over the three year period an average of 20 Rotarians have participated in the ceremonies.

YMCA

The club supported camp scholarships over the three year period.

Youth Commission

The club supported financially the Trumbull Youth Commission Annual Summer Musical "Grease" presented in July of 2010.

AVENUE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

District Governor Projects:

*DG Ernie Luise's Filters 2007/08

Club members were challenged to "purchase" a filter and the club would match dollar for dollar. \$2,5000 was given in 12/07 and an additional \$5,000 added later.

*DG Colin Gershon's "Hole in the Wall" camp fund 2009/10

At the DG's official visit to club on 8/7/09 Club President, Tom Ginis handed the Governor a check for \$400 for his camp project. Then on 12/2/09 the Board voted to give an additional \$500 to the camp project.

RI Foundation

*The entire month of November each year was given to Rotary Foundation speakers.

*The club bought a table for members to attend the welcoming brunch for GSE team from Sri Lanka at Oronoque Country Club on May 20, 2007.

*During the three years, two Trumbull Rotarians were/are members of the Paul Harris Society, one member is a benefactor and one member is a major donor.

*2008-09 the Trumbull Club was part of the White Knight Society based on the per capita giving of club members.

Giving:

*Trumbull Rotarians rank consistently near the top in the number of sustaining members giving \$100 or more to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) in the District.

2007-08 – 96% sustaining members. Per capita giving to TRF - \$123.19

2008/09 – 94% sustaining members. Per capita giving to TRF– \$192.61

2009-10 – 95.95% sustaining members. Per capita giving to TRF - \$141.90

*55 members are Paul Harris Fellows and many have more than one sapphire.

* The Trumbull Rotary Club placed first in District for number of sustaining members to The Rotary Foundation - May 2010

International projects supported financially by club

* Dominican Literacy Project started by New Milford Rotarian Kimberly Crandall (12/07)

* Dr. Kanaga Sena of the International Medical Health Organization (12/07)

* BioSand Filters for Cathy Forsberg's Water Filter Program in Bangalore, India, a South Asia Pure Water Initiative. (\$2,500 given in Dec. 2007 with an additional \$5,000 in 2008) These funds provided water filters for four villages.

Polio Plus Commitment - Dodgeball Tournament

*At the December 3, 2008 board meeting members committed to raising \$3,000 annually over the following three years for the Polio Plus campaign. Currently in its 3rd year the Tournament has allowed the club to meet it's obligation of giving \$3,000 yearly to the campaign and do it by involving the community and raising awareness.

* The club and a number of individual members supported financially Bridgeport Rotarian Jatin Mehta's swim across Lake George to raise funds for Polio Plus.

The Rotary Foundation Global Grant

The all women's Rotary Club of Solo Cortini, Indonesia partnered with District 7980 clubs (Westport, New London and Trumbull) to write a grant to install white tiles in public baths as a means of cutting down the spread of Dengue Fever carried by mosquito larvae. It was announced at the Rotary International Convention in Montreal that this grant application was the first Global Grant given under Future Vision, an honor for all participating clubs and District 7980.

Youth Exchange

The Trumbull club became active in the Youth Exchange program during early 2009 and the preparation work needed to bring students to Trumbull and to send them overseas took place during the last two years of the grant application timeframe.

Trumbull student Michelle Ramos has recently returned to Trumbull from Taipei, Taiwan and French Student, Etienne LePreven is currently living in Trumbull (*and attending almost every Rotary meeting!*)

AVENUE OF VOCATIONAL SERVICE

(As business leaders, Trumbull Rotarians share skills and expertise through their vocations and inspire themselves and others to high ethical standards.)

Business and Education Initiative (B.E.I.)

The Town of Trumbull Business Education Initiative is a partnership of business, education, the community, and town government to provide students in grades K-12 with an awareness of careers and an understanding of the business environment. For the past several years, the club has supported B.E.I.'s mini grant program and members of the club have served on B.E.I.'s board and committees and volunteered their professional expertise as business coaches.

Career Days

20 Rotarians spoke at the 10/2/08 Career Day at Trumbull High School

15 Rotarians spoke at the 10/15/08 Career Day at St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull

10/1/09 Several Rotarians spoke at Career Day and sponsored an Interact/PolioPlus table at Trumbull High School.

Interact Club at Trumbull High School

During each of the three years, Trumbull Rotary has sponsored an Interact Club at Trumbull High School.

Junior Achievement (JA)

Over the three year time period several club members volunteered their time and the club donated funds to support the JA program in Trumbull Schools. Each year a JA representative was a guest speaker at the club.

Read Aloud Day at Edison School in Bridgeport

The Trumbull Rotary has "adopted" a Bridgeport elementary school and for the past several years supported the school by club members volunteering to read on "Read Aloud Days" each October. The club purchased "Weekly Readers" and gave funds each year of the application to the "Edison Eagle Merits" program which entitles students to "purchase items at school store. Students receive these merit rewards for acting responsibly, respectfully and safely. During December 2008 members selected an item from a "holiday giving tree" for an Edison School child.

Read Aloud Days: 10/24/07; 11/22/08; 10/22/09

Rotary Sponsored Read Aloud Day in Trumbull Public Schools

*Rotarians from the club not only read in classrooms, but each year the club purchased the books chosen by the Language Arts Leader for the yearly "Read Aloud Day" held in each elementary school during April. A copy of each book read (*with a Rotary bookplate*) was left in the classroom and additional copies were donated to each school's media center and the Public Library. Special certificates were presented to community volunteer readers as well.

Scholarships

*The Trumbull club is committed to supporting youth and no way is more apparent than the amount of scholarship money given out each of the past three years...on

average \$12,000. Students who best exemplify Rotary International's motto: "*Service Above Self*" with emphasis placed on participation in volunteer activities as well as academic excellence and financial need are chosen.

* In addition to the regular scholarship program, the club also supported the Karen Mraz Memorial Scholarship at Trumbull High School.

Student of the Month

Between 2007-2010, the Trumbull Rotary Club recognized a student selected by his/her middle school teachers and principal each month during the school year. Selection criteria included the student's community service, citizenship, resiliency, positive attitude, and the capacity for self-directed learning. Often the student's parents and school personnel were invited to be at the breakfast honoring the student and on many occasions the student's picture appeared in the local paper.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Bernard F. Helfrich Memorial Golf Tournament

Named in honor of a charter member of the club, the tournament has consistently raised over \$20,000.

Tournaments held on: May 21, 2007; May 12, 2008; May 18, 2009; May 17, 201

Carnival

Held on the grounds of Hillcrest Middle School during April vacation week, this is the club's oldest, biggest and most successful fundraiser (\$30,000 + annually)

Carnival held on: 4/17-4/22, 2007 ; 4/16-4/21, 2008; 4/15-4/19, 2009

Sunset Run

Held each summer at Twin Brooks Park in Trumbull, this race draws over 400 participants. (\$2,000-\$3,500)

Town Concerts at Indian Ledge Park-beer and wine sales

7/20/07 - \$12,000; 8/7/08 - \$14,657; 8/23/09 - \$9,549. *(severe weather affected profits)*

*On Average the Trumbull Rotary Club over the past three years has awarded over **\$60,000** to humanitarian efforts, locally and globally including **\$12,000** in student scholarships annually and supported a wide variety of community related projects and efforts. None of the funds raised were used in any way benefited the club and its operational expenses.*

POLIO PLUS FUNDRAISING

Dodgeball Tournament - *Involving the community and raising awareness!*

Held in Trumbull High School Gymnasium

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 - 20 teams

Thursday, March 25, 2010 – 13 teams

And Thursday, April 7, 2011

Trumbull Rotary has fulfilled its pledge to give \$3,000 annually to the Polio Plus Campaign for the past two years and will do so again following the April 7, 2011 event.

