

PRESS RELEASE

Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary Club Announces 2011-12 Board of Directors

August 4, 2011 (for immediate release) Contact: Priscilla Hammond at 561-3572 or bphammond@charter.net

Plattsburgh, NY.... On June 30, 2011, Susan LeBlanc, incoming president of Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary, graciously accepted the club gavel from outgoing president Ronald Marino at an Annual Awards Dinner held at the Barracks. LeBlanc is the owner of "My Cup of Tea" restaurant on Margaret Street in Plattsburgh and has been a Rotarian since 2000.

Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary's Board of Directors inducted for the 2011-12 year are President Elect, Thomas Gosrich, 2nd Vice President, Joan Sterling, Secretary, Maxine Perry, Treasurer, Tom LaBombard, Sergeant at Arms, John "Jack" Brown, Directors at Large, Cheryl Reagan and Paul Deyoe and Past President, Ronald Marino.

"Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary members are a special group of professionals who continue to design new ways of helping our community and others around the world, said new Club President LeBlanc. She added, "Since joining this club in 2000, I have met people from Canada, Australia, India, Africa, England, Japan as well as many other countries. The stories they share aren't much different from our own. The one theme I take away from all of this, "It takes just one idea to make change."

Past President Marino said, "For me, personally, it was an honor and a privilege to serve as Sunrise Rotary's President for 2010-2011. It was a year of exciting change; including how we do business, from the budgeting and governance process to adding exciting new programs that assisted both our international and local communities. We cannot be satisfied with retaining the status quo because our community, both local and international, is forever changing and evolving. We must change and evolve to meet those needs," he concluded.

The program at the Annual Awards Dinner included recognition of two Paul Harris Honorees, the Rotarian of the Year, and the induction of the incoming administration of the club. A Paul Harris Fellow Award was presented this year to Jeanie Roberts, Executive Director of the Red Cross, for her many contributions to our citizens and our region during times of need. Kathy Duley in presenting the award said, "Sunrise Rotary Club is so pleased to honor you with the Paul Harris award. A \$1000 donation is being given in your name to the Rotary Foundation for all the humanitarian work that Rotary

does throughout the world. Our club chooses to give the award to someone who exemplifies the humanitarian ideals of Rotary in their work, family and community endeavors. Jeanie, your life has been, what Rotary values most--- "Service Above Self". Thank you for all you have done for our community and for what you have done to make the world a better place."

A Paul Harris award, which is Rotary International's highest honor bestowed on an individual club member, was presented to a surprised Gerard "Jerry" Kelly. Kelly was toasted by Paul Raino and the entire membership for his many quiet, but continuous, often behind-the-scenes contributions. Kelly has been a valuable member of Sunrise Rotary since March 1998. He was also a member of the Plattsburgh (noon) Rotary for several years.

"Rotarian of the Year" award for 2010-11 was presented to John "Jack" Brown, by outgoing President, Ron Marino. Brown was chosen for his generous support and dedication to club activities, his work on the board as well as various committees and his overall willingness to pitch in wherever help is needed.

Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary has 53 members who meet weekly on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am at the American Legion Post 20 on the Quarry Road in Plattsburgh. The club is proud of the community service work it does through projects such as the annual *Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival*, now into its 35th year. Other fundraising projects held during the year include the *Fall Into Pink* motorcycle ride benefiting breast cancer victims and the Fitzpatrick Cancer Center's Treasure Chest, *Go Red for Women* in support of heart health, volunteering at St. Peter's Soup Kitchen, contributions to the local Food Shelf, hosting the first annual *Wacky Winter Carnival* on the front yard of CVPH, and *Operation Warm*, a program that provided winter coats for children in need, to name a few.

In addition, Sunrise Rotary is equally proud of its support of events like the Literacy Challenge, Rotary Radio Day, Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity and the Plattsburgh Half Marathon, and in providing local scholarships to students through the CVPH Foundation, Clinton Community College Foundation and the Plattsburgh State University College Foundation.

In 2011, Sunrise Rotary was pleased to send three local high school students to Ottawa, Canada to attend the *Adventures in High Technology* conference and to sponsor two local high school representatives to attend the *Eastern New York Hugh O'Brien Leadership Conference* held in the Albany area.

On an International level, Sunrise Rotary provides support through donations and or service to such worthy causes as Shelter Box, the Haiti Relief Fund, the North Country Mission of Hope in Nicaragua and Polio Plus.

Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary recently welcomed its newest members, Zack Latinville, Jessica Sears, Kerry Taylor, Yvonne Stafford and Jennifer Meschinelli.

For membership information or to learn more about Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary go to www.plattsburghsunriserotary.org.

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