



News Release

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Keuka College Rotaract Club Chartered Nov. 16

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—Welcome to the family.

That is the message that members of the Keuka College Rotaract Club received from Rotarians at their Rotaract Charter Night, Nov. 16.

Rotaract is an international, Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18-30.

The invitation-only event drew a crowd of about 55 Rotarians from local Rotary clubs as well as the district organization. Governor Charlie Clemens, Elmira Heights, presented the club with a Charter signed by Rotary International President Glenn Estes. Clemens also spoke to the new club about what it means to be part of the Rotary family.



The Keuka College club got its start last spring, according to Professor of Political Science and Economics Jeff Krans, one of the club's advisers and a member of the Penn Yan Rotary Club.

“[The Rotaract Club] instills the value of service so that as its members enter into their professions, they carry that commitment into new communities,” said Krans.

According to Krans, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education Anne Marie Guthrie held a meeting for students interested in starting up a community service club.

“[The students] did the research on Rotaract and took the ball and ran with it,” said Guthrie, who pointed them in the direction of Krans knowing “he is very active in youth leadership in Rotary.”

“A group of students approached me, said they’d like to start a Rotaract Club on campus, and asked me to help them get started,” said Krans. “Fifteen students signed an initial commitment to join. I asked the Penn Yan Rotary Club to sponsor them and they have—happily so. I’ve been working with [Rotaract] members throughout the fall semester to establish the club.”

Krans said part of his job “is to explain the ideals of Rotary and encourage the students to practice them.”

(more)

ROTARACT CHARTERED 2

And practice them they have.

“They’ve already completed or lined up three community service projects before they were even chartered, demonstrating their commitment to Rotary’s motto: ‘Service Above Self,’” said Krans.

Club members participated in the Crop Walk in Dundee Oct. 17. They also made commitments to the Child and Family Resource Center in Penn Yan as well as Penn Yan Middle School students, who are starting up a Rotary-sponsored club of their own, Community Act, for which Rotaract members will serve as mentors.

In addition to Rotaract and Community Act, the Penn Yan Rotary Club also sponsors INTERACT, a youth service club for ages 14-18, initiated in the early 1990s.

According to Krans, the Keuka College Rotaract Club is the fourth of its kind in the 68-club district (No. 7120) that encompasses a good portion of central and western New York.

Keuka College Rotaract Club officers are: President Angela Rhodes, a senior English major from Owego; Vice President Cindi Kujawski, a sophomore English major from Horseheads; Secretary Michelle Dunham, a freshman unified childhood/special education major from Cuyler; and Treasurer Kelley Wood, a freshman biology major from Savona.

Other Rotaract members include: senior management major Robert Berwick (Windham, Maine), junior political science/history major William Brown (Apalachin), senior management major Greg Deibler (Waverley), freshman political science/history major Beth DiFabion (Watertown), freshman unified childhood/special education Jessica Hazzard (Fort Plains), freshman unified childhood/special education major Michaela Kelly (Staten Island), freshman unified early childhood/special education major Crystal Ross (Cato), freshman unified childhood/special education major Laura Schroeder (Cheektowaga), and freshman unified early childhood/special education major Kathleen Toltz (Rochester).

In addition to Krans, club advisers include Kristie DeMarco, the College’s community service advocate/Americorps VISTA volunteer, and two other members of the Penn Yan Rotary Club, Evelyn Emerson and Mary Ellen Morgan. Morgan is also a student teacher supervisor for the College’s education department.

(more)

ROTARACT CHARTERED 3

As a member of the College community, Morgan wanted “to help another member make sure [the club] became a reality.”

She also “wanted to see the program go threefold.

“I’d like to see young people in the community get involved with the College club,” Morgan added.

The club is open to new members and meets biweekly on campus. For more information about the Keuka College Rotaract Club, contact Krans at jkrans@mail.keuka.edu(.)