

By Danielle Sanzone
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Five Questions: Bob Van Alstine



Bob Van Alstine of Malta is a member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes and is a part-time employee at the Office of the State Comptroller. He is also an author.(Photo by Tom Killips)

Bob Van Alstine of Malta is a member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes and is a part-time employee at the Office of the State Comptroller. A graduate of the University at Albany, he retired from the state in 2004 but was asked to continue to work there part-time. He is also an author.

Q: When did you start with the state Comptroller's Office?

A: I started in 1974 and spent my entire career in the same office. I retired in 2004 but they asked me to do part-time work. I'm still with the same division. It's a wonderful place to work. My field is information technology. I like building software applications to help people.

Q: How were you introduced to the Rotary Club?

A: I grew up with Rotary. My father joined in 1953. Most join because they want to give back to community where they work and live. I joined because it's good camaraderie. I joined in 2008.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: I enjoy genealogy and learning about my family's history. I have written two books about my ancestors. I wrote one in 1982 about a Lutheran pastor in the 19th century during the abolitionist movement and another book in 1999 about the Dorr and Van Alstine families.

Q: Are you working on another book now?

A: I am doing another one now about William Dorr, who was on the 1775 expedition to Quebec with Benedict Arnold. I think more people will be interested in reading about that. It should be published pretty soon.

Q: What is your favorite summer activity?

A: I like doing yard work and taking care of my property.