

Marshall Barrett of Pittstown was recently elected the president of the Rotary Club of Cohoes. Originally from the Spindle City, he is a retired Dunkin Donuts store manager and a Cohoes High School graduate.



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Q: Any goals for your term as president?

A: We have to boost new membership. It's important to get new members and new ideas. Membership recruitment is number one on my list. I am looking for new energy, which is what new members bring to an organization. Joining Rotary leads to lifelong friendships, improved organizational skills, a new sense of personal purpose and a vision of both your community and your world and how we can make them both better places for our children.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do with Rotary?

A: I like the annual spaghetti dinners we have in April at the Cohoes Senior Center. I help organize the event and it's fun to get everyone working together as a team. I joined Rotary to help people and make friends. I really enjoy helping out and helping others.

Q: What else does the Rotary Club do in the community?

A: We hold many fundraisers and then present money to local organizations and to national philanthropies. Some local ones include the Cohoes Community Center, the Cohoes Senior Center, and the Cohoes Library.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I am a contractor at heart. I like to do work around my house. I also enjoy doing long canoe trips up north. I am also a beekeeper with bees near the Tomhannock Reservoir and at an organic farm.

Q: What were you doing in the summer of '69?

A: That was during the Vietnam War so I was traveling around the country protesting the war. I did that for two and a half years after high school. We went through California, Mexico, I went to Mardi Gras in New Orleans in 1970. We would protest at one college then hear about another protest and go to that college. Living for that long in a van gets to you, but traveling like that also makes you appreciate the area you grew up in.