

“Service Above Self”

Rotary
Club Of Cohoes



Chartered April 10, 1927 - District 7190



90th
Anniversary
Celebration

Thursday, April 27, 2017

The Venue
65 Congress Street
Cohoes, NY 12047

www.rotaryclubofcohoes.org

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PROGRAM

Rotary 90th Anniversary

Program

6:00

Registration

Period music

Speakeasy Buffet

7:00

Welcome - President Curtis Hovey

Guest Speakers and Proclamations

Charter Presentation -
District Governor John Mucha

7:15

History of Cohoes Rotary –

Robert Van Alstine

Music and fun

90th Anniversary Committee
Ed and Linda Tremblay, Christine Somers,
Colin Demers, Monika Boeckmann, Mike
Brooks and Robert Van Alstine.

**Memorial Recognition
Robert T. Van Alstine
(1910 - 2009)**



**Member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes
1953 to 2009**

Bob and Karen Van Alstine

90 Years of Service The History of the Rotary Club of Cohoes

**April 27, 2017
by**

Robert W. Van Alstine

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer, and Silvester Schiele met and discussed the notion of forming a fellowship and business booster club. Along with Gustavus Loehr and Hiram Shorey, the first Rotary meeting was held the same day at Gustavus Loehr's office in Room 711 in the Unity Building in Chicago, IL. ¹ Paul Harris described the club as "a very simple plan of mutual cooperation and informal friendship such as all of us had once known in our villages". Since they agreed to alternate the location of meetings among their places of business, they chose to name their club "The Rotary Club". ²

By 1910, when the first Rotary convention was held in Chicago, sixteen Rotary clubs had been established. ³ By the end of 1912, Rotary had expanded into fifty-four clubs. On May 1, 1913, the Rotary Club of Albany, the first Rotary Club in the Tri-City area, was chartered. ⁴ The Rotary seed was now planted in the Capital Region. On June 1, 1914, the Rotary Club of Troy was formed. ⁵ Additional Rotary clubs in the Capital Region followed. From 1914 to 1927, when the Rotary Club of Cohoes was chartered, the following clubs were sponsored by the Troy Club: Glens Falls and Ballston Spa, 1922; Mechanicville, 1924; and Cohoes, 1927. ⁶

Founding member Reverend Victor Blekkink, Pastor of the Reformed Church in Cohoes, stated that Rotary began in Cohoes when a group of men realized,

"Individually they felt that such an organization would foster friendships among its members; collectively they hoped it might render some distinctive service to the community". The man most responsible for the formation of the Cohoes Rotary Club was Edward Doyle, a member of the Troy Rotary Club who lived in Cohoes.

⁷ Mr. Doyle was Vice President of the Manufacturers Bank of Cohoes. ⁸



Chester A. Davis

On March 23, 1927, the organizational meeting of the Rotary Club of Cohoes ⁹ was held at the YMCA headquarters in the Larkin Building at 73 Mohawk Street in Cohoes. ¹⁰ Chester A.

Davis, President of the Cohoes Power and Light Corporation was elected President; J. Harry Lear, of Mohawk Laundry, Vice President; Perry U. Fuller, President of Cohoes Mill & Lumber, Secretary; Dr. M. J. Keough, Physician, Treasurer; and William S. Clark, R. S., Clark & Sons., Sergeant-at-Arms. A list of twenty-five members was submitted to Rotary International (RI) with an application for membership. ¹¹

The first board of directors included the officers above and James P. Dooley, James P. & John B. Dooley, General Contractor Coal and Building Material; George A. Buchanan, Abso-Fresh Bakeries, Inc.; and Ernest C. Game, Cashier, National Bank of Cohoes. The Club charter was dated April 10, 1927. ¹²

On May 19, 1927, more than 200 people attended a special celebration at the Masonic Temple during which the April 10th, 1927 club charter from RI was presented by District Governor Otto F. L. Mohn of the Twenty-Ninth Rotary District ¹³ to Chester, A. Davis, President of the Rotary Club of Cohoes. ¹⁴ "It is the men who live in a spirit of friendship and kindness which Rotary desires to obtain" the District Governor stated. "The men who are interested in other men, in the places in which they live, where they work and where they play make ideal Rotarians. Service is the dominate note in Rotary. You can hear it at every meeting of a Rotary Club, and it is sounded in everything which Rotary plans to do." ¹⁵

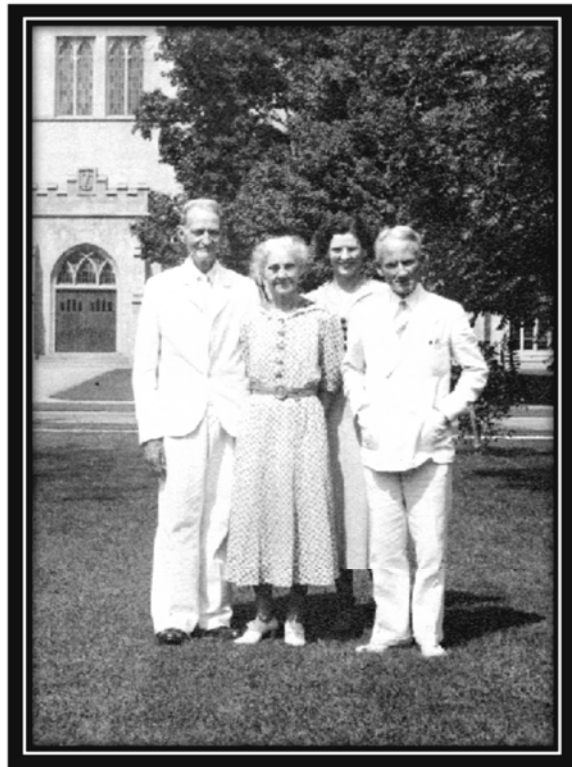
James W. Smith, President of the Rotary Club of Troy stated that they were proud to be the "father" of the Cohoes club, and promised every aid in its power to the club. He urged the new body to choose its membership with care, and to obtain for its ranks only the men of the highest type in each classification. ¹⁶

In the early years, the Rotary Club of Cohoes held winter meetings at the YMCA in Larken Hall, and in the summer at the Elks Cub on Oneida Street. ¹⁷ From the beginning *service* was the focus of the newly formed club. During the summer of 1927, the club sent five underprivileged boys to the Cohoes YMCA summer camp on Crooked Lake. J. Thatcher Sears, District Governor for District Twenty-Nine was the speaker at the Rotary Club of Cohoes on September 7, 1927. ¹⁸

The history of the Rotary Club of Cohoes is integrally connected with dedication to the ideals of Rotary as demonstrated by the contributions made by all the Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Cohoes over the years. It is not possible to review contributions made by all of them.

This history highlights and reviews the contributions made by five outstanding Club members: Reverend Victor Blekkink, Frank Hines, William Dillon, Linda Tremblay and Edward Tremblay. These people are highlighted in this ninety-year history because I wish to communicate to the reader who these Rotarians were, what they did for Cohoes, the Rotary Club of Cohoes, and the high ideals and civic minded spirit that permeated their lives.

My father, Robert T. Van Alstine, knew all five of them very well, and told me many stories about each of them. I was too young to remember the Reverend Blekkink, however I do remember Frank Hines. I knew Bill



Rev. Everett Blekkink, Hattie Blekkink, Ruth Blekkink, Rev. Victor Blekkink, D. D.

Dillon well, and currently serve in the Rotary Club of Cohoes with Ed and Linda Tremblay. Each of these people will be discussed as part of the period of the club history to which their contributions most pertain.

Victor Blekkink was born August 27, 1887 in Lisha Kill, NY, ¹⁹ the son of the Reverend Everett John Blekkink and Hattie E. Merrdink. He graduated from Hope College in Holland, MI in 1909, and from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, NJ in 1912. He served three pastorates of the Reformed Church: Long Branch, NJ (1912 - 1914), Canajoharie, NY (1914 - 1922) and Cohoes, NY (1922 - 1962). ²⁰ He married Agnes G. Stapelkamp on August 7, 1912 in Holland, MI. ²¹

The photo includes from left to right: Reverend Everett Blekkink, his father; Hattie Merrdink Blekkink, his mother; Ruth Blekkink, his sister; and Reverend Victor Blekkink.

Dr. Blekkink was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes and was involved in its activities from the club's inception in 1927 until he retired in 1962. He served as the club's 5th president for the 1931 - 1932 year. ²² My father recalled that Reverend Blekkink was the best public speaker he had ever heard. Often, when men came into Rotary, they did not have public speaking experience. Reverend Blekkink conducted classes for club members in which he taught them how to make presentations in public. ²³ My father, Robert T. Van Alstine, began speaking to groups in public because of what he learned in Reverend Blekkink's classes.

The following summaries from newspaper articles demonstrate Dr. Blekkink's vision and views on contemporary issues of his day. They also illustrate the thought-provoking messages that he gave to Rotarians

during the many presentations that he made to members of the Rotary Club of Cohoes.

Dr. Blekkink was the principal speaker at the 25th Anniversary celebration for the Rotary Club of Cohoes in 1952. ²⁴ This event was held at Dinty's Terrace Gardens in Latham on June 11, 1952. ²⁵ John A. Diehl, Traffic Manager for Beaunit, was President of the Club at that time. ²⁶ Rotarians sold tickets to the event. Two charter members were still in the club at that time: Reverend Vector Blekkink, and George Buchannan. ²⁷

Dr. Blekkink told the Rotarians assembled that the American way of life is fertile soil for the growth of Rotarianism because it promotes unity within diversity, and not uniformity. Dr. Blekkink explained that in Rotary, men of different creeds seek the same God, and that men of different political parties support the same country. He stated that although selfishness is still rampant in the world, the tides of goodwill are slowly returning because of the individual effort of countless individuals seeking to attain a better and more humane life. Dr. Blekkink stated that Rotarians all over the world are taking a foremost part in this movement. He urged them to never feel helpless in the face of overwhelming world antagonisms, but always to remember that as in the past, it was always individual conversion to good, first of all, which led mankind to peace and cooperation. Rotarians must continue to build bridges of understanding between peoples and tear down barriers of misunderstanding.

On October 29, 1957, Dr. Blekkink spoke to the Rotary Club of Cohoes about "Rotary and Today's World". ²⁸ He stressed the desirability and necessity to apply the principles and ideals of Rotary in attempting to solve the myriad of conflicts and misunderstandings which permeate today's (1957) world. He was introduced

by Robert T. Van Alstine, Vice-President and Program Chairman.

The November 28, 1958 Troy Record includes an article that discusses the 1958 Thanksgiving address that the Reverend Blekkink delivered to the "Rotary Anns".²⁹ Dr. Blekkink explained that Americans need to maintain their integrity in an era which is prone to gloss over age-old moral values. He explained that today (1958) in many quarters there is a dangerous tendency to confuse liberty with license and that the moral degeneration of the individual is the shortest route to the decay of society. He cited the strong moral qualities woven into the Mayflower Compact by the first Pilgrim settlers. Dr. Blekkink explained that the deep moral sense that the Pilgrims had is even more vital today in an age where materialism, fraudulent philosophies and political expediency are ever at work and chip away at the moral underpinnings of the unwary.

An article appeared in the Times Record on November 29, 1962, in which the Rotary Club Cohoes honored the retiring pastor Blekkink.³⁰ The Club conducted a surprise program to honor him as part of its annual Ladies' Luncheon at the OCA Club on Ontario St. in Cohoes. Pastors of all the churches in Cohoes were in attendance. The Reverend Blekkink, the guest of honor, delivered his annual Thanksgiving address as he had done for many years.

John P. (Jake) Robert introduced Reverend Blekkink. George V. Trahan, President of the Rotary Club of Cohoes, explained the many ways Dr. Blekkink served the club through the years. President Trahan also gave special tribute to Dr. Blekkink's oratorical ability. One of Reverend Blekkink's outstanding contributions to the Cohoes Rotary Club had been his extemporaneous appreciatory remarks following the addresses of guest

speakers. George Trahan was President of G. A. Trahan Co. ³¹

After Reverend Blekkink retired, he returned to live in Holland, MI where his father had been pastor of the Reformed Church for many years. He died February 27, 1979. ³²

On March 10, 1965, the members of the Rotary Club of Cohoes gathered at the OCA Club to celebrate their 38th anniversary. ³³ An interesting aspect of this celebration was that the Rotary Club of Cohoes paid tribute to Robert (Bobby) Larkin who played the piano at the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Cohoes in 1927. Bobby Larkin still had a "little black book" in which he recorded his playing engagements. It included the date that he played the piano at the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Cohoes. Larkin had been playing at weekly meetings of the club ever since.

Thomas Kiely, editor of the former Cohoes American newspaper, and a member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes for many years, told the Rotarians what Cohoes was like in 1927, the year that the Cohoes Rotary Club was formed. He was the reporter assigned to cover their first Rotary club meeting in 1927. ³⁴

The next Rotarian to be discussed is Frank Hines. He was born March 31, 1897 in Gloversville, NY. ³⁵ He was married to Anne Smyth Hines, a teacher in the Cohoes High School for many years. ³⁶ He was the Deputy City Engineer for the City of Cohoes for twenty-nine years. ³⁷ My father used to say that Frank Hines knew where every underground pipe in the City of Cohoes was located.



**Frank Hines, District Governor and
Robert T. Van Alstine, President Rotary Club of Cohoes**

Frank Hines, called "Mr. Rotary" by his fellow Rotarians, became a member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes in 1939.³⁸ His fellow Rotarians stated that he was an inspiration to all, friendly, gentle and inspired deep affection.³⁹ He served as club president for the 1947-1948 year.⁴⁰

Frank Hines was involved in Rotary District affairs. In 1948 - 49 and 1949 - 50 he was the aid to the district governor.⁴¹ Then he served as Treasurer for District 255 from 1954 to 1957.⁴² At the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Cohoes, held on November 14, 1956 at the Van Schaick County Club, it was announced that Frank Hines was named by the District Nominating Committee as the next District Governor for District 255.

This was the first time in the history of the Rotary Club of Cohoes that one of its members became a District Governor. ⁴³

District Governor Hines's *Nine Objects of Rotary* was a nine-part plan for the 1957 - 58 year for District 719. The first one is particularly interesting. *Fireside Meetings* required that each Rotary Club hold one or more meetings in members' homes in groups of six to eight Rotarians to get to know each other better. ⁴⁴ As District Governor for District 719, Mr. Hines made his official homecoming visit to the Rotary Club of Cohoes on December 4, 1957. ⁴⁵

He spoke about various projects that had been undertaken within the District and plans for future events. He was welcomed by Robert T. Van Alstine, President for 1957 - 58 and Program Chairman. Frank also served as Chairman of the District Budget Committee, three years on the Redistricting Committee and two terms on the District Extension Committee. During his term as District Governor, five new Rotary Clubs were established in District 719: Latham, Corinth, Delmar, Shenendehowa and Rotterdam. ⁴⁶

In the later 1950s a major undertaking in Cohoes was the construction of a new hospital on Columbia Street to replace the old hospital located on Main Street. In the early 1950's, the Board of Directors purchased a twenty-three-acre site on Columbia Street near the western boundary of the city. ⁴⁷ The estimated cost of the new hospital was \$585,000.

On October 1, 1958, the Rotary Club of Cohoes pledged to raise \$10,000 to be donated to the hospital building fund. ⁴⁸ At that time, George J. Hastings, General Manager of Cohoes Carrybag, Co. Inc. was president of the club. This pledge was part of the

\$225,000 goal for the second and final fundraising campaign. A concert was held on February 3, 1959 at the Cohoes Theater for the benefit of the Cohoes Memorial Building Fund. ⁴⁹ Rotarians sold tickets to this event.

Also, at the October 1, 1958 meeting of the Rotary Club of Cohoes, the speaker, Mr. John King, a representative of the Borden Milk Co., praised the work of Frank Hines, who was assigned by RI to promote ideals and purposes of Rotary throughout the District. ⁵⁰

In 1966, the Rotary Club of Cohoes began bestowing the *Citizen of the Year* ⁵¹ award to outstanding people who contributed to their community. Frank Hines was the first "Citizen of the Year". Club President Arthur E. Dufresne, a funeral home director in Cohoes, stated that Frank Hines never failed in his efforts toward the improvement and the development of the Cohoes Rotary Club. ⁵² My father, Robert T Van Alstine received this award in 1981, and both the *Citizen of the Year* and *Rotarian of the Year* awards at his 90th birthday celebration sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cohoes, held at the Century House on March 7, 2000. ⁵³

In 1971, Frank Hines was one of three officials for the City of Cohoes who were honored by the New York State Conference of Mayors at their annual conference in June in New York City. Mayor Virginia B. McDonald presented Quarter Century Certificates to Frank Hines, Deputy City Engineer; Alphonse Gorski, Police Chief; and John Kielb, Assistant Commissioner of Public Safety. The certificates were presented to them on July 13, 1971 at a brief ceremony at City Hall. ⁵⁴ At that time, Frank Hines had twenty-nine years of service to the City of Cohoes, beginning in 1942.

Frank Hines died August 12, 1971 in Cohoes, NY. John T. Percy, City Engineer, referred to Frank Hines as "the best public servant the City of Cohoes ever had".⁵⁵ A dedicated Rotarian for thirty-two years, he attended numerous district conferences and six international conventions. He served as Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms at the Rotary International Conventions in New York City and Luzerne, Switzerland. Frank also assisted in the formation of seven new Rotary Clubs in the Troy area.



In honor of the lasting contributions that Frank Hines made to Rotary, the Rotary Club of Cohoes established the *Frank Hines Memorial*

William J. Dillon

Scholarship. Each year, \$1,000 is given to a student graduating from high school and living in Cohoes.

The next Rotarian to be discussed is Mr. William J. Dillon. He was born April 16, 1915 in Cohoes, NY, the son of James D. Dillon and Winifred M. Flannigan.⁵⁶

He graduated from Cohoes High School and during World War II was in the U.S. Navy where he was an aviator and radio technician.

Following his discharge from the Navy, Bill Dillon began his career with the United States Postal Service in Cohoes as a mail carrier. On December 8, 1946, he married Kathleen McGlynn.⁵⁷ He worked for the post office for over thirty years becoming Superintendent of Mails and Assistant Postmaster.

In May 1958, he was responsible for setting up routes that 80 volunteers used to call on homes in Cohoes for solicitation of donations for the Cerebral Palsy Fund.⁵⁸ My father told me how Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Cohoes would take turns driving city residents afflicted with Cerebral Palsy to classes at the CP Center in Albany. They would wait for them while they were in class and afterwards drive them back home.⁵⁹ On February 20, 1959, William J. Trombley, Postmaster of the Cohoes Post Office, announced that William J. Dillon was appointed to the position of Deputy Postmaster and Superintendent of Mails.⁶⁰ Bill Dillon joined the Rotary Club of Rotary in 1965.

On September 29, 1965, Club President Walter P. Hoffman, an engineer⁶¹, sent the following letter to Ms. Warren W. Kelly, a history teacher at the High School and sponsor for the Yorkers, regarding restoration of the family cemetery on the grounds of the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes.

We of the Rotary Club of Cohoes are very pleased to learn that the "YORKERS" of Cohoes High School are to continue their efforts in an extremely worthwhile project, namely the rehabilitation of the Van Schaick Cemetery.⁶²

The cemetery has great historical significance, has been shamefully neglected. We wish to assure you that the Rotary Club of Cohoes is happy and willing to sponsor and assist in any manner possible in the endeavors of the "Yorkers" in the successful culmination of the project.

Very truly yours,

ROTARY CLUB OF COHOES, N. Y.

Walter P. Hoffman, President

Cohoes Rotarians worked alongside students up righting grave stones, and cleaning up the cemetery. The Club also gave a monetary donation to the cemetery restoration fund. ⁶³

The photo shown below is of a stone placed in the cemetery commemorating the Van Schaick Cemetery restoration project, and the organizations that helped it become a reality. The Van Schaick Cemetery was rededicated on November 20, 1966. ⁶⁴

On March 31, 1966, a special Common Council meeting was held in City Hall by a council composed of high school students who took over city government as part of Student Government Day. This event was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cohoes. ⁶⁵

On January 24, 1968, simulated news announcements of Rotary "Headlines" during the past year were presented at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Cohoes at the OCA Club. Robert G. Hanlon was commentator for the event, and Robert Van Alstine and

William Dillon acted as Rotarians and correspondents. ⁶⁶

Entitled "The Big Broadcast of 1968", the program was dedicated to the Rotary Magazine and emphasized services provided by Rotarians in many fields over the



Cemetery Restoration Project Commemorative

years. The magazine, the correspondents said, played an important part in the development of education.

Cohoes City Court Judge Robert G Hanlon served as Club President for the 1969 -70 year. Frank Bisnett, owner of Bisco Sales Improvement Co ⁶⁷ , suppliers of bottled gas; First Vice-President; William C. Corbett, Second Vice President; Harold R. Wittman, Secretary; Myron Mooradian, Treasurer. In addition, Dr. S. Paul Albert, chiropractor; Alex Sheremeta, CPA; Arthur

Dufresne; and William Dillon were elected to the Board of Directors. ⁶⁸

An interesting note is that at the same meeting Col. Jake Robert showed the Rotarians a movie entitled "To Keep Men Free". He explained the background and duties of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) and that ROA promotes national security, and is composed of members with a military background and reserve training. Col. Robert explained that ROA members believe that adequate security is insurance against future war. He also stated that it is essential for the prestige of our country and necessary in furthering our national policies and world interest. ⁶⁹

It was during Bob Hanlon's term of office that the Rotary Club of Cohoes sponsored its first inbound foreign exchange student. Miss Helen Rapp from Grange, a suburb of Adelaide, Australia, spent a year living in Cohoes, and attending Cohoes High School. ⁷⁰

Helen Rapp noted the differences in housing between her country and ours. She explained that for the most part homes in Australia are one story brick structures. She was very impressed with the new Cohoes High School building, particularly that it had central heating. She also explained that in Australia, school classes were strict and structured. You went to school to work and learn from teachers. You never questioned anything taught to you. In Cohoes, students are allowed to question their teachers as to why something is so. ⁷¹

On November 2, 1970, Helen Rapp, accompanied by George Trahan of the Rotary Club of Cohoes, spoke to the Watervliet Rotary Club in Friendship Hall in Watervliet. At this point in her stay in the United States she was living with the Trahans. Helen spoke about

Australia, its people, customs, flora and fauna, and illustrated her talk with colored slides. ⁷²

On January 25th, 1970, the Rotary of Cohoes held a reception for Helen Rapp at the Van Schaick Country Club. She lived for three months each with four different Rotarians and their families. Helen spoke briefly stating that she was glad to be in Cohoes. Jake Robert was Chairman for the event. ⁷³



Helen Rapp with Rotarians

The photo entitled *Helen Rapp with Rotarians* was taken at the reception at the Van Schick Country Club in her honor. Standing from left to right: Harry Robinson, an attorney in Cohoes; Myron Mooradian, Moordians Furniture Store; George Perry, Principal of Cohoes High School; Helen Rapp; John Panek, Superintendent of the

Cohoes City School District; Father James Kelly, Principal of Keveny Memorial Academy and Frank Hines. ⁷⁴

A photograph of Helen Rapp with a painting given by her to the Rotary Club of Cohoes appeared in the January 6, 1971 issue of the Times Record. The painting was sent to her in Cohoes by the Henley Beach Rotary Club in Grange, Australia. It was on display in the Marine Midland Bank in Cohoes when the photo was taken. ⁷⁵ Helen Rapp returned to Australia on January 4, 1971.

The same year, the Rotary Club of Cohoes sponsored an outbound foreign exchange student. Dennis O'Connor from Keveny Memorial Academy spent his senior year in Beppu Oita-Ken, Japan. While he was there, he was the guest of the Beppu North Rotary Club. On August 12, 1970, Dennis spoke to the Rotary Club of Cohoes regarding his forthcoming year in Japan. He showed them slides of points of interest in Cohoes and highlights of the Centennial Parade which he would present to his Japanese hosts. He left for Japan on August 17, 1970. ⁷⁶

When Frank Bisnett began his term as Club President for 1970-71, the other officers included Alexander Sheremeta, First Vice President; Bill Dillon, Second Vice President; Myron Mooradian, Treasurer; Harold Wittman, Secretary; and Roland Bellerose, President of Cohoes Welding Works, Sergeant-at-Arms. Jake Robert installed the new officers. ⁷⁷ Bill Dillon was in charge of the budget for the club. ⁷⁸

On May 24, 1972, students from the Cohoes High School and Keveny Memorial Academy who participated in the "Student Government Day" in Cohoes were guests at the Rotary Club of Cohoes weekly meeting at the

OCA Club. The students gave their impressions of what it meant to hold public office for a day. Alex Sheremeta was President of the Club. Bill Dillon was master of ceremonies. Father James Kelly gave the invocation. ⁷⁹

Bill Dillon became Club President for the 1972-73 year. He presided at the weekly meeting on June 28, 1972. Other officers were George A. Perry, First Vice President; H. Myron Mooradian, Second Vice President and Bulletin Editor; Harold Whitman, Secretary; Donald Wilson, CPA, Treasurer; and John T. Murphy, Chief Accountant, Cohoes Memorial Hospital, Sergeant-at-Arms. ⁸⁰ It is also interesting to note that outgoing Club President Alex Sheremeta gave perfect attendance awards to three club members: Walter Eisner, of the Juliet and Mr. Jules Clothing Stores, 29 years; Frank Bisnett, 13 years; and S. Paul Albert, 8 years.



**Congressman Sam Stratton Speaks
to the Rotary Club of Cohoes**

On August 23, 1972, Congressman Samuel S. Stratton was the speaker at the Rotary Club of Cohoes. The picture shown on the previous page appeared in the Troy Record on August 24, 1972. Included in the photo, from left to right are: **Alex Sheremeta**, Club Vice President; Congressman Stratton, and Club President William J. Dillon.

Congressman Sam Stratton told the Cohoes Rotarians of the remarkable cooperation between Richard Nixon, the Republican President and the Democratic controlled U.S. Congress for the past four years. He explained that welfare reform, revenue sharing, increases in Social Security payments, anti-crime and anti-drug legislation were among those areas where significant progress had been made.

Congressman Stratton emphasized that over the past two years, the City of Cohoes had received more than \$7 million in Federal aid, including \$1.3 million from the Neighborhood Development Program and \$3.6 million from the Model Cities Program. He added that the people of Cohoes deserved a good part of the credit for the acquisition of these funds.⁸¹ George Perry, Program Chairman, introduced Congressman Stratton.

In June 1976, Mayor Virginia McDonald received the Rotary Club of Cohoes Citizen of the Year award. She served as Mayor of the City of Cohoes from January 1, 1970 to December 31, 1975.⁸² She was the first woman mayor for the City of Cohoes, and founded the Cohoes Community Center,⁸³ which opened October 7, 1971.⁸⁴ She was also Mayor for the Cohoes Centennial Celebration from April 25 to May 2, 1970.⁸⁵ She was responsible for restoration of the Cohoes Music Hall, implementation of the Model Cities Demonstrating Agency Programs, and establishment of a new Public

Library.⁸⁶ From left to right in the photo below are Bob Hanlon, an attorney; Bob Gullie, Director of the Cohoes Community Center and President of the Rotary Club of Cohoes; and Mayor Virginia McDonald.



**Mayor Virginia McDonald
Receives Rotary Citizen of the Year Award**

1977 was a very significant year for the Rotary Club of Cohoes because this was the year the Club celebrated its Golden Anniversary, fifty years as a Rotary Club. To plan for this occasion, the 50th Anniversary Committee was formed. William Dillon was selected Chairman. A photograph of this committee is shown below.

Seated are Bill Dillon and George Trahan. Standing from left to right are Dr. Anthony Falcone, dentist; Donald Marios, Manager of Cohoes Manufacturing, a clothing store; Judge Robert G. Hanlon, former City Court Judge; Frank Bisnett; Arthur Dechesne, Swatlings Paint Store; John Panek and Robert Van Alstine. Col. Jake Robert, not in the photo, was also a committee member.



50th Anniversary Committee

A Golden Anniversary commemorative booklet was prepared.⁸⁷ Robert A. Clark, Sr., President for the 1976 - 77 year provided the following message:

Serving our club in the capacity of its president is to be considered a privilege at any

time, but it is a singular one at this particular time of our Golden Anniversary. Service has been the lasting mark of the Cohoes Rotary Club from that long-ago day when our first president, Chester A. Davis, accepted the Club's charter from the president of our sponsor, the Troy Rotary Club. And service remains the watchword after a half-century. A service which affects the highest ideals of Rotary's purpose and which has won for us, within our community, a respected reputation and abundant goodwill.

So, I take this opportunity to salute all those Rotarians who carried on the good work of these past fifty golden years. While looking to the future with equal confidence and satisfaction that another fifty years of the same unselfish adherence to those objectives will continue to foster and develop the ideals and values in which we take such pride on this happy and appropriate occasion.

Robert A Clark, Sr

President, Cohoes Rotary Club

The Golden Anniversary commemorative booklet gave memorial recognition to Frank Hines with the following:

In fond remembrance of an outstanding member whose devotion to the ideals of Rotary was a continuing inspiration to all and who's friendly, gentle and amiable demeanor inspired a deep affection for him throughout his many years of active membership. To all

of us who knew and admired him, he was indeed ...
"MR. ROTARY".

The photograph is the 50th Anniversary Luncheon held on May 19, 1977 at the Cohoes Community Center.



50th Anniversary Luncheon

A Golden Anniversary Dinner Party was held at the Crossroads Restaurant in Latham on May 21, 1977. An article entitled *Cohoes Rotary Celebrates 50th Anniversary* states that in its early years, the Club participated in a drive to raise money for the city's first ambulance, and the purchase of equipment for the Cohoes Memorial Hospital. ⁸⁸ One of the interesting things that I found in the Club archives is a journal entitled *X Ray Fund*. It includes a listing of donations made by Cohoes businesses and individuals from April to June 1943. A total of \$3,996. was raised. ⁸⁹

Bill Dillon served thirteen consecutive years as Club Secretary from 1987 until 2000. Each year he would collect items of interest, newspaper articles, photos, programs, etc, during the term of the current club president, place them into a binder, and present it to the club president when they were leaving office. I call these historical treasurers the *Presidents Book*. He also did one for his year as Club President. It has been an invaluable source of information about the Club in the early 1970s.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the U. S. economy changed from an agricultural to an industrial base. By the late 1950s, the United States was considered the primary industrial country in the world.⁹⁰ In the late 1970s and early 1980s, this began to change. Beginning in the post-World War II era, service industries were expanding and outpacing growth in industry. In addition, population migration from the cities to the rapidly growing suburbs caused many local retail stores to leave the cities and locate in shopping centers and later malls in the suburbs. Women entered the work force in increasing numbers and families migrated from one to two-income households.

At the same time, RI modernized in order to meet these challenges. In 1989, RI admitted women into Rotary for the first time in its history,⁹¹ and membership became more ethnically diversified. Rotary also broadened its focus from being community centric to include global issues such as poverty, hunger and disease. For example, RI's Polio-Plus Program.⁹²

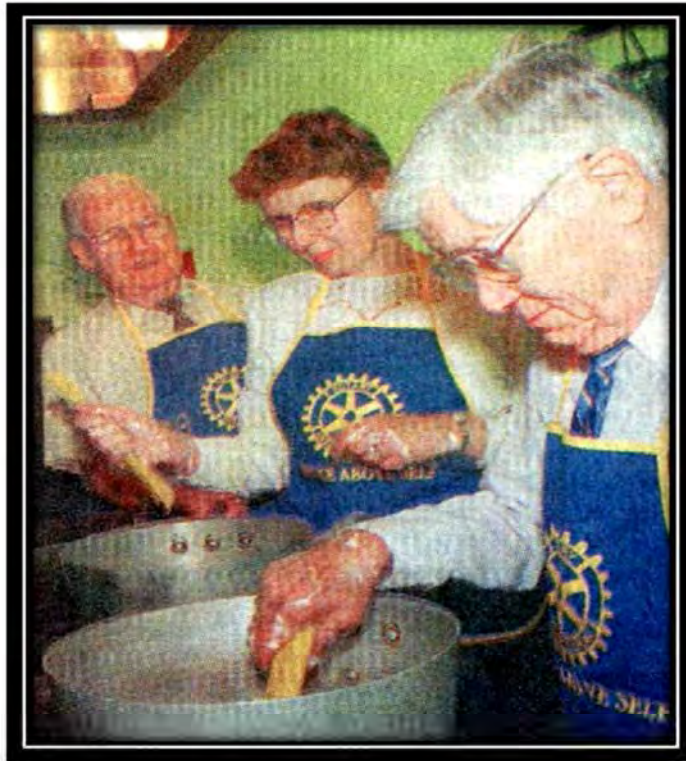
By the late 1970s and early 1980s these trends were clearly evident in every small city, including the City of Cohoes. It also had a profound effect on the number of members and constituency of membership of many Rotary clubs, including the Rotary Club of Cohoes.

Throughout the 1980s and the 1990s the number of members declined, and the new members who were joining Rotary were predominately from service and not-for-profit sectors.

Beginning in the 1990s a new type of member was entering the Rotary Cohoes of Cohoes. No longer was the membership in the Club all men and limited to traditional occupations such as industry, bankers and lawyers. The first woman to join the Rotary Club of Cohoes was Sandra MacWilliam, Administrator for the Eddy Nursing Home in Cohoes. She joined the Club November 1, 1988.⁹³ Other new members worked for the City of Cohoes, Cohoes Senior Center, Cohoes Housing Authority, Cohoes Community Center and the Cohoes City School District.

The next Rotarian to be discussed is Linda Tremblay. Linda Adey, a lifelong resident of Cohoes, was born on September 11, 1954 in Troy NY, the daughter of Robert and Ruth Hagadorn Adey.⁹⁴ She married Edward Tremblay January 4, 1975 in Cohoes, NY.⁹⁵ She joined the Rotary Club of Cohoes on September 1, 1995.⁹⁶ Linda and Col. John (Jake) Robert were recognized as Co - Rotarians of the Year by outgoing Club President Barbara Pailley at the Installation Dinner on June 26, 1997.⁹⁷

Linda Tremblay was Club president for the 1997-1998 year.⁹⁸ At this point in her career, she was in charge of the Riverpark Visitors Center in the Cohoes Music Hall.⁹⁹ The Rotarians continued to do many of the things that they traditionally did such as making annual gifts to local community organizations like the Cohoes Community Center, Cohoes Senior Center, Cohoes Library, and the Salvation Army in addition to ringing the bell for the Salvation Army.



Smells Good!

In October 1997, they held the annual Spaghetti Dinner. The photo is of Bill Dillon, Linda Tremblay and Bob Van Alstine working at this event. Linda Tremblay recalls that Bob Van Alstine, Walter Speidel, Harry McDonald and Bill Hull would bring their entire families to each of these events.

That year, the Club also awarded the Frank Hines Memorial Scholarship to a graduating high school senior, held a golf outing at the Van Schaick County Club and had a book sale at the Lansing Park Festival.

August 27, 1997 marked one of the highlights of her presidency. It was on this day that Bryon Moak, Assistant Governor for District 7190 awarded long-time

club member, Walter Speidel, retired President of the Cohoes Savings Bank, with the Paul Harris Fellow award.¹⁰⁰

This award is presented to anyone who contributes \$1,000 or more to the RI Foundation. Walter Speidel was an example of what being a Rotarian is all about. He joined the Club in 1968, and was named both Cohoes Community Center Citizen of the Year, and Cohoes Rotary Club Citizen of the Year 1990. Club President Linda Tremblay stated that "It is an honor and a privilege to be able to recognize a Rotarian of Walter's caliber. He devoted his life to serving others. We can all learn from his example."¹⁰¹



Linda Tremblay at the 2012 Installation Luncheon

Linda served again as Club President in 2004-5 and has served as Club Secretary for eleven terms. She is

currently serving in this capacity. ¹⁰² Linda is among those Rotarians that can be counted upon to lend a helping hand at every club event.

The photo shown above is of Chuck Ries administering the oath of office to Linda Tremblay for another year as Secretary of the Rotary Club of Cohoes.

Linda has the following thoughts and memories regarding Rotary.

In the course of my adult life I have belonged to numerous service organizations. What makes Rotary stand out from the others is the feeling of comradery.

Whether we are working together to rake leaves in Cayuga Plaza, or serving spaghetti dinners or chicken barbecues, or collecting coats, toys or food for the needy, or just getting together each week for lunch, we truly enjoy each other's company.

Working for the community doesn't feel like work when you have good people working by your side. When we are together there is always laughter so it is time well spent.

I feel honored to have known several of the longtime senior members of the Cohoes Rotary Club. I loved listening to them tell stories of what Cohoes was like in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s. They were the definition of gentlemen who supported me from the moment I became a member of the club. In this fast-paced world of technology I hope the next generation does not lose the

personal contact that taught me so much from those who came before me. ¹⁰³

The last Rotarian to be discussed is Linda Tremblay's husband Ed. Edward Tremblay, a lifelong resident of Cohoes, was born January 1, 1954 in Troy NY, the son of Edmond and Helen Welch Tremblay. ¹⁰⁴ He joined the Rotary Club of Cohoes September 4, 2002. ¹⁰⁵ At that time, he was the Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Cohoes. He served as Club President for the 2006-7 year.



Ed Tremblay

An Installation luncheon was held June 28, 2006 at the Century House, during which Ed Tremblay became Club President. ¹⁰⁶

During this year, Rotarians sold money bear tickets and Christmas ornaments at the Van Schaick Island Fall Festival, Lottery Raffle tickets, Century House gift certificates (a percentage of the proceeds was donated

to the Club) and Sawbuck tickets. The Rotarians also rang the bell for the Salvation Army. A highlight of President Ed's term was that on October 18, 2006, Club member John Doemel, Director of the Cohoes Community Center, received the Paul Harris award at the District 7190 RI Foundation Banquet. ¹⁰⁷

On April 27, 2007, the Annual Spaghetti Dinner was held at the Senior Center. On May 19th, 2007 Rotarians, along with members of the Kiwanis Club and the Cohoes Caretakers ¹⁰⁸ served drinks and food to workers at the Cohoes Founders Day Celebration, and assisted in the cleanup effort. ¹⁰⁹ Also during Ed's term of office, an update of the Club by-laws was initiated. Updated by-laws were approved by the Board of Directors in July 2007. In subsequent years, Ed has served as Fundraising Chair, and Membership Chair. ¹¹⁰

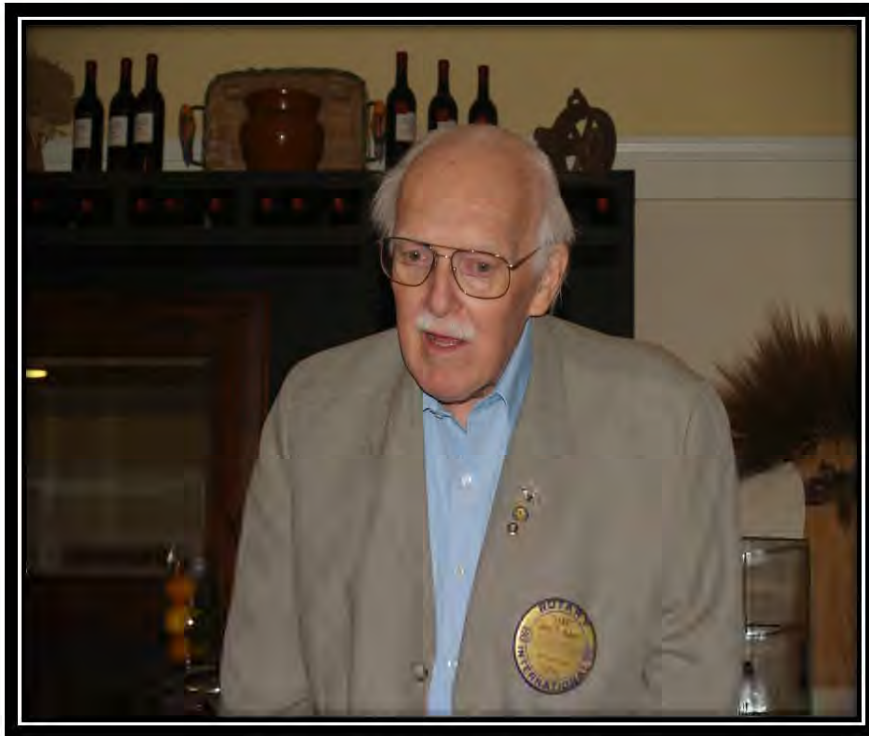
As Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Cohoes for many years, he always kept Rotarians up to date on the latest happenings in the City, particularly new businesses opening in town, and community events that were being held.

He is currently serving as President Elect and will become Club president for the second time on July 1, 2017. Like his wife, Linda, Ed Tremblay is among those Rotarians that can be counted upon lend a helping hand at every club event.

Ed Tremblay remembers: 75th Anniversary Party, Christmas Parties with Bob Gullie, Bill Dillion and Bob Van Alstine; spaghetti dinners with Al Pasinella, Jack Farrell, Bob Libby, John Doemel; and foundation dinners with Chuck and Debbie Reis. Ed is also gratified at being able to support the non-profits of

Cohoes knowing how important every dollar is to their missions. ¹¹¹

The following is a discussion of contributions made by other current club members. ¹¹²



Colonel John (Jake) Robert

Col. John (Jake) Robert joined Rotary in 1960. He is currently the oldest member in age and years of service. Colonel Jake served as club president in 1963-4. He is mentioned previously several times in this Club history. The year I was club president (2012 - 13), Jake was my mentor. He provided the type of traditional Rotary perspective that I needed to keep me on the right path.

The photo of Colonel Robert is from the Installation Luncheon held on June 27, 2012 at the Century House.

Jake Robert shared the following memories:

I remember the father-daughter breakfasts sponsored by the Rotary of Club of Cohoes at St. Agnes Parish at which I brought Lisa and Amy. I also remember Rotary Christmas parties at which I brought my family; and being master of ceremonies at the dinner for Helen Rapp, our first in-bound exchange student. ¹¹³

Jake Robert died unexpectedly on April 21, 2017. ¹¹⁴

Charles (Chuck) Ries, an attorney, joined Rotary on April 1, 1970. At weekly meetings, he can be counted on to bring a song for the club to sing. He is the catalyst who made our Club known for its singing. He is a member of the Board of Directors.

Chuck Ries provided the following memories.

I remember my initial encounter with Cohoes Rotarians at Jake Robert's office on Remsen Street when I was invited by Frank Bisnett to an informational meeting to learn about Rotary and its worldwide *service above self* mission to see if I was interested in joining the Club. At that meeting, I met for the 1st time Bob Van Alstine, Frank Hines, Jake Robert, Bob Hanlon, Bill Dillon, Bob Gullie and several others who so impressed me with their presentations that I felt honored to be asked to join them in Rotary! Bob Van Alstine, Bob Hanlon, Bill Dillon, Bob Gullie, and other Rotarians like Harry W. McDonald, Walt Speidel and Chet De La Mater were like mentors to me sometimes in person, but mostly

in the way they interacted with each other and conducted themselves in their family, business, and community dealings! These Rotarians epitomized the Rotary 4 way test every day of their lives! I always enjoyed and still do our weekly meetings, particularly the camaraderie, congeniality and banter of the attending Rotarians.

I remember Bob Van Alstine taking the time to call me when he was well into his 80's to make sure I was going to make a meeting. Although my law practice was very demanding of my time, there was no way I could say no to Bob!

In 1972 when Bill Dillon was President, I had to pay a fine for not remembering the name of a guest speaker who had been a childhood friend of mine while growing up on Winspear Ave. in Buffalo NY! They set me up by not announcing the name of the speaker before he was called on to speak. His name was Dick Hall and I hadn't seen him since the early 1950's, but when he stood up, I blurted out that he has a brother named "Bobby" which was correct. Dick's presence was purely coincidental as he was at the meeting to speak about the "pitch in" campaign that a beverage company he worked for was conducting across the state. Funny what memories you retain about our meetings!

Not having been born and raised in the Cohoes Community, and coming here to practice law in 1970 as a complete stranger, it was joining Rotary and my fellow Rotarians treating me as if I was their lifelong friend, that made me feel as if I lived in this community all my life!

John (Jack) Farrell, a funeral director, joined Rotary on January 11, 1971. He served a club president in 1989-90, and has served on the Board of Directors several times. Jack Farrell provided the following memories.

When I came into the club, new members had to sit at the head table at Rotary meetings until they knew the first names of other club members. Sometimes members would switch seating places on purpose to trip us up. I joined the same year as Chester (Chet) De La Mater.

When I joined the Club, we met at the OCA Club in Cohoes. A woman named Mrs. Golden played the piano at weekly meetings. Ed Maxwell, a reporter for the Troy Record would be a guest for lunch. An article about the meeting would appear in the newspaper the next day.

Red Jello was frequently offered for dessert. One time Doc Hebert ruined a tie, and Walter Eisner a suit jacket because the stains would not come out.

I remember that some local businesses in Cohoes would close on Wednesdays during the time that the weekly Rotary meeting was held. ¹¹⁵

Colin Demers, Managing Partner at the Century House, joined Rotary on April 1, 1988. He was club president for the 1992-3 and 2008-9 years. He and the Century House have been generous with all events that the Club has had there through the years.

He was Chairman of the Fundraising Committee when I was Club President. His committee was responsible for organizing the first Keveny Memorial Academy Reunion Cocktail Party held at the Century House on November 23, 2012. Over 300 people were in attendance. That year the club raised over \$8,000 of which almost \$5,000 was from the Keveny event.



First Keveny Memorial Academy Reunion Cocktail Party

Colon Demers provided the following memories.

I remember being so thankful when I was inducted into Rotary by so many Cohoes leaders that I had looked up to and admired while I was growing up. They inspired me to make the world a better place, and just be a good person!

I am honored and humbled to be a member of the Cohoes Rotary and to play a small part in continuing the legacy of Gullie, Van Alstine, Dillon, Speidel, Donnelly, De La Mater Ries, McDonald and many more.

The craziest memory I have is when we all had breakfast at the Century and then went to clean up Cohoes Falls overlook in the late 80's. Most of us got poison ivy and Bob Gullie held me out over the cliff by my belt so that I could saw off a tree branch that was in the way of the view. I almost gave my life for Rotary that day!!

I loved it!

Michael Brooks joined Rotary in 1996. He has served as Club Treasurer for twelve consecutive terms beginning in 2005-6. He also maintains our club website and our presence on Facebook. At weekly meetings, he can be counted on to provide "Words of Wisdom".

Beverly Signoracci joined Rotary September 4, 2002. She has been a member of the Board of Directors. She served on the Hospitality Committee for many years and was responsible for organizing many of the Club Christmas and Installation ¹¹⁶ events.

Marshall Barrett joined Rotary on May 29, 2003, He served as club president for the 2005-6 and 2009-10 years. He has been Sergeant-at-Arms for six consecutive terms beginning in 2011-12. He always coordinated work assignments for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner, and continues to do the same for annual Salvation Army bell ringing.

Peggy O'Shea, Assistant Superintendent, Cohoes

City School District, joined Rotary on July 1, 2003. She can be counted on to be an effective liaison with the Cohoes City School District. She currently serves as coordinator for guest speakers, and is serving on the Board of Directors.

Robert W. Van Alstine joined Rotary on July 1, 2007. He served as Club Secretary for three consecutive terms from 2008-9 to 2010-11; and Club President for the 2012-13 year. Bob served as Assistant Governor for Area 8 in District 7190 for three years from 2013-14 to 2015-6. He became leader of the District 7190 Information Technology Assistance Group in 2015-6.¹¹⁷ He currently serves on the Board of Directors of our Club. Bob Van Alstine provided the following memories:

The year I became President of the Club (2012-13), I asked the Board members take a leap of faith. We embarked on a performance measure approach to club management. Some of them had been exposed to this before and others had not. Everyone jumped on board and we had a very successful year. This is significant to me because it demonstrates that the leadership in our club was willing to try something different and step out of their comfort zone in an effort to make the club prosper.

My father, Robert T. Van Alstine, joined the Rotary Club of Cohoes in 1953 and remained a member until his death in 2009. Therefore, he was a member of our club for fifty-six years. I grew up in a Rotary household. My father was a big proponent of the *4-Way Test*, both inside and outside of Rotary. He told me about it many times. I knew several long-time Club members all of my life: Bill

Dillon, Judge Hanlon, Col. Jake Robert, Walter Speidel, Harry McDonald, Bill Hull, Doc. Albert, and many others.

By watching my father and all of these men, I learned that Rotary is much more than a social club. To them, it was a way of ethical living and doing business, and dedication to serving others. At ninety-eight years, old, Wednesday was Rotary day, and my father went. After Rotary, he and I would visit Bill Dillon at the Eddy. We would keep him up to date regarding what was going in the Club. After I joined the Club in 2007, I remember Jake Robert, Walter Speidel, Harry McDonald and Bill Hull attending Rotary meetings quite regularly. The years of comradery and dedication they had to the Club and each other is worthy of emulation, *hat's Rotary!* ¹¹⁸

David Mitola, a dentist, joined Rotary on February 3, 2010. He served as Club Secretary for the 2011-12 year, and a two-year term as Club President for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 years. He subsequently served as both Membership and Fundraising Chairman, and is serving on the Board of Directors.

Curtis Hovey, Director of the Cohoes Community Center, joined Rotary on September 4, 2012. He is in the second year of a two-year term as Club President which includes 2015-16 and 2016-17. As Director of the Cohoes Community Center, Curtis has an in-depth understanding of the needs and concerns of the population of the City of Cohoes. This perspective has been invaluable in our effort to make the Rotary Club of Cohoes relevant to our local population.

Christina Madden and her husband John (Jack) became members December 1, 2013. Christina served as Community Service Chairperson. Jack Madden served as Information Technology Coordinator of the Cub for the 2015-16 year. The Maddens relocated to New Hampshire in 2016.

In the past two years, the following new members have joined the Club: Stephanie Heslin, Manager of the Cohoes Branch of KeyBank, Community Service Chair, March 1, 2015; Jennifer Spring, Superintendent, Cohoes City School District, July 4, 2015; Christine Somers, Marketing Director, Community Resource Federal Credit Union, September 4, 2016; and Monika Boeckmann, Director, Senior Services of Albany, February 16, 2016.

Domenico Cunsolo became the first student member of the Cohoes Rotary on February 7, 2017. He was accepted into the Rotary Youth Exchange Program as an outbound student. Domenico will be graduating early from Cohoes High School at the end of his junior year (June 2017). He will be spending the next school year (2017-18) studying abroad in Spain.

In 2004, the Rotary Club of Cohoes began selling Christmas ornaments depicting Cohoes landmarks. We have had thirteen of them made so far: 2004, Cohoes Falls; 2005, Harmony Mills; 2006, Cohoes Music Hall; 2007, Mastodon; 2008, City Hall; 2009, Half Moon; 2010, Silliman Church; 2011, Van Schaick Mansion; 2012, Keveny Memorial Academy; 2013, Old Cohoes High School; 2014, Public Library; 2015 Movie Theatre, 2016, Carlson's Ice Rink. Hundreds of them have been sold each year, resulting in thousands of dollars being raised to finance awards to local organizations.



**Christmas Ornaments on Display
at the Keveny Memorial Academy Cocktail Party**

In 2012, the Rotary Club of Cohoes adopted Cayuga Plaza.¹¹⁹ Each fall and spring the Rotarians with the assistance of students from the Cohoes schools rake leaves and do other cleanup work. Rotarians in the photo include: Curtis Hovey, Bev Signoracci, Dave Mitola and Bob Van Alstine. Students from the Cohoes Middle School and Cohoes High School are also shown.

We began selling apple pies, and having a chicken BBQ in conjunction with the annual Mastodon Race in Cohoes as an additional source of funding for awards to local organizations.

Other on-going service projects include providing cold water to runners at the Mastodon Race, collection and donation of toys and other holiday gifts at Christmas

time for the Holiday Hope Project, and winter coats for needy children.



2013 Cayuga Plaza Cleanup

The continued success of the Rotary Club of Cohoes depends on a supply of new members who have a spirit of community and the desire to help others. District Governor Otto F. L. Mohn said it best when on May 19, 1927 he told the Rotarians assembled for the chartering the Rotary Club of Cohoes that "service is the dominate note in Rotary. You can hear it at every meeting of a Rotary Club, and it is sounded in everything which Rotary plans to do".

I hope that when others read this ninety-year history they will want to belong to this wonderful organization. It truly is a life changing experience!

Happy 90th Anniversary Rotary Club of Cohoes!

Robert W. Van Alstine

April 27, 2017

Illustrations

1. Chester A. Davis. *Rotary Club Organized with Membership of 25 and Chester A. Davis as President*. (Cohoes, NY: Cohoes American, March 23, 1927), 1 - 2.
2. Rev. Everett Blekkink, Hattie Blekkink, Ruth Blekkink, Rev. Victor Blekkink, D. D. The Joint Archives of Holland, History Research Center, Hope College, Holland, MI.
3. Frank Hines, District Governor and Robert T. Van Alstine, President Rotary Club of Cohoes (From Robert W. Van Alstine.) Also, see *Honored by Rotary Club*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, December 6, 1957), 27.
4. William J. Dillon. W. J. Dillon, Postal Aide, Will Preside at Breakfast. (Troy, NY.: Times Record, April 27, 1961), 29.
5. Cemetery Restoration Project Commemorative Stone. (Taken by Robert W. Van Alstine, September 9, 2012).
6. Helen Rapp with Rotarians. (Archives of the Rotary Club of Cohoes).
7. Congressman Sam Stratton Speaks to the Rotary Club of Cohoes. Congressional Visit. (Troy, NY.: August 24, 1972), 25.
8. Mayor Virginia McDonald Receives Rotary Citizen of the Year Award. (Archives of the Rotary Club of Cohoes).
9. 50th Anniversary Committee. (From Robert W. Van Alstine).
10. 50th Anniversary Luncheon. (From Robert W. Van Alstine).
11. Smells Good! (Troy, NY.: The Record, October 23, 1997).
12. Linda Tremblay at the 2012 Installation Luncheon. (Provided by Robert W. Van Alstine).
13. Ed Tremblay. (Provided by Robert W. Van Alstine).
14. Colonel John (Jake) Robert. (Installation Luncheon, June 27, 2012. Provided by Robert W. Van Alstine).
15. First Keveny Memorial Academy Reunion Cocktail Party. (Keveny Memorial Academy Reunion Cocktail Party, November 23, 2012. Provided by Robert W. Van Alstine).
16. Christmas Ornaments on Display at the Keveny Memorial Academy Cocktail Party. (Keveny Memorial Academy Reunion Cocktail Party, November 23, 2012. Provided by Robert W. Van Alstine).
17. 2013 Cayuga Plaza Cleanup. (Cayuga Plaza Cleanup, May 3, 2013, Provided by Robert W. Van Alstine).

Endnotes

- ¹ Forward, David. C. *A Century of Service - The Story of Rotary International*. (Evanston, IL: Rotary International, 2009), 26 - 27.
- ² Ibid., Forward, David. C. *A Century of Service - The Story of Rotary International*, 29.
- ³ Ibid., Forward, David. C. *A Century of Service - The Story of Rotary International*, 47.
- ⁴ Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary - A History of Rotary International in District 7190*. (Glens Falls, NY: Fred A. Carvin, 2004), 25.
- ⁵ Ibid., Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary - A History of Rotary International in District 7190*, 28.
- ⁶ Ibid., Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary - A History of Rotary International in District 7190*, 156 - 157.
- ⁷ Ibid., Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary - A History of Rotary International in District 7190*, 36.
- ⁸ *The Troy Directory also Cohoes and Waterford, Watervliet and Green Island, NY*. (Samson & Murdock Co, Inc., 1927), 779.
- ⁹ *New Rotary Club in Cohoes Elects Davis President*. (Schenectady, NY: Schenectady Gazette, March 24, 1927), 2. Also, see, *Rotary Club Organized Here with Membership of 25 and Chester A. Davis as President*. (Cohoes, NY.: Cohoes American, March 23, 1927), 1 - 2.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., *The Troy Directory also Cohoes and Waterford, Watervliet and Green Island, NY*.
- ¹¹ Ibid., *New Rotary Club in Cohoes Elects Davis President*.
- ¹² Ibid., Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary - A History of Rotary International in District 7190*, 157.
- ¹³ Over the years, the Capital Region District has had many different numbers as RI has expanded in size. In 1915, District 2; 1918, District 3; 1922 - 1937, District 29; 1937 - 1947, District 174; 1947 - 1949, District 173; 1949 - 1958, District 255; 1958 - District 719 which became the current District 7190. Ibid., Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary - A History of Rotary International in District 7190*, 172 - 173.
- ¹⁴ *New Rotary Club Formed in Cohoes Receives Charter*. (Troy, NY: The Troy Record, May 20, 1927), 28. Also see *More than 200 Rotary Club Members Present as Cohoes Branch Receives Its Charter*. (Cohoes, NY.: Cohoes American, May 20, 1927), 1 - 2.

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- 15 *ibid.*, *New Rotary Club Formed in Cohoes Receives Charter*. Also, see *ibid.*, *Rotary Club Organized with Membership of 25 and Chester A. Davis as President*.
- 16 In Rotary, classifications are used to provide a cross-section or representation of the community's business, vocational and professional interests among members of a Rotary club. Examples of classifications include: health care management, banking, pharmaceutical-retailing, petroleum-distribution, and insurance agency.
- 17 *Outline History of the Cohoes Rotary Club*. This is two pages, 4 and 5 that I found in the archives of the Rotary Club of Cohoes. It is in an envelope from Robert G. Hanlon to William Dillon. No author is specified. Robert G. Hanlon and William Dillon are discussed later in this Club history.
- 18 *Ibid.*, *Outline History of the Cohoes Rotary Club*.
- 19 *Victor Blekkink Selective Service Registration Card*. Draft Registration Cards for Fourth Registration for New York State, 04/27/1942; NAI Number: 2555973; Record Group Title: *Records of the Selective Service System*; Record Group Number: 147.
- 20 *Blekkink, Victor John W., 1887-1979*. (Social Networks and Archival Contexts - SNAC), <http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/ark:/99166/w6vx53sb> This is based on Papers, 1880-1962. (Joint Archive of Holland, History Research Center). WorldCat record id: 30343529. Also, see *Rev. V. J. Blekkink. Cohoes Pastor 40 Years, Resigns*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, October 23, 1962), 17.
- 21 Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952. Record Number 242, roll 111. Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics.
- 22 *List of Club Presidents for the Rotary Club of Cohoes*. Rotary Club of Cohoes records.
- 23 *Recollections Robert T. Van Alstine (1910 - 2009)*.
- 24 *Rotary Club Notes 25th Anniversary*. (Troy, NY.: Times Record, June 12, 1952), 25.
- 25 *Program, 25th Anniversary Rotary Club of Cohoes, New York*. June 11, 1952, (Albany, NY.: New York State Archives, District 7190. SC 22802. Box 4 Folder 81.)
- 26 *Ibid.*, *Program, 25th Anniversary Rotary Club of Cohoes, New York*. Also, see, *John A. Diehl To Be Chairman of Boy Scout Fund Campaign*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, May 26, 1952), 11.

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- 27 Rickman, Henry E. *Brief History of Cohoes Rotary Club*. (Albany, NY.: New York State Archives, District 7190. SC 22802. Box 4 Folder 81.) Also, see *ibid.* *More than 200 Rotary Club Members Present as Cohoes Branch Receives Its Charter* (Cohoes, NY.: Cohoes American, May 20, 1927), 1 - 2. *Ibid.*, *The Troy Directory also Cohoes and Waterford, Watervliet and Green Island, NY.*, 758.
- 28 *Rev. Blekkink Addresses Rotary Club*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, November 1, 1957), 27.
- 29 *Dr. Blekkink Addresses Rotary Anns*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, November 28, 1958), 11. The term "Rotary Ann" referred to wives of Rotarians. After 1989, when women were first admitted to Rotary, the term was discontinued.
- 30 *Rev. V.J. Blekkink Honored at Cohoes Rotary Luncheon*. (Troy, NY.: Times Record, November 29, 1962), 29.
- 31 For many years, G. A. Trahan Co. supplied the lights and decorations for the streets in Cohoes at Christmas time.
- 32 *Victor Blekkink, Social Security Death Index, Master File*. Social Security Administration.
- 33 *Cohoes Rotarians Honor Dedicated Piano Player*. (Troy, NY.: The Troy Record, March 12, 1945), 19.
- 34 *Ibid.*, *Cohoes Rotarians Honor Dedicated Piano Player*.
- 35 Frank Hines. *Social Security Death Index, Master File*. Social Security Administration. Also, see, Frank W. Hines, *Dies; Ill Briefly*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, August 13, 1971), 22.
- 36 *Mrs. Hines Educator, Dies in Cohoes*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, March 21, 1953), 13.
- 37 *Ibid.*, Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary – A History of Rotary International in District 7190*, 98.
- 38 *City Engineer Named Rotary Citizen of the Year*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, June 30, 1966),
- 39 *Ibid.*, Carvin, Fred A. P. D.G. *Capital Region Rotary – A History of Rotary International in District 7190*, 98.
- 40 *ibid.*, *List of Club Presidents for the Rotary Club of Cohoes*.
- 41 *Cohoes Rotarians Plan for Home Coming Visit of District Governor - Luncheon to be Held Wednesday*. (Troy, NY.: Times Record, December 2, 1957), 19.
- 42 *Ibid.*, *Frank W. Hines, Dies; Ill Briefly*.
- 43 *Cohoes Man Now Serves as Treasurer*. (Troy, NY.: Troy Record, November 15, 1956), 23.

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- 44 Hines, Frank, D. G. *Monthly Letter to Club Presidents*, No 1. July 1957. (Albany, NY.: New York State Archives, District 7190. SC 22802. Box 2 Folder 29.)
- 45 Ibid., *Cohoes Rotarians Plan for Home Coming Visit of District Governor - Luncheon to be Held Wednesday*.
- 46 Hines, Frank, D. G. *Monthly Letter to Club Presidents*, No 12. June 1958. (Albany, NY.: New York State Archives, District 7190. SC 22802. Box 2 Folder 29.)
- 47 *Cohoes Hospital 1898 - 1970*. Cohoes Centennial 1870 - 1970. (Cohoes, NY: City of Cohoes, 1969).
- 48 *Rotary Club Pledges \$10,000 Toward Hospital*. (Troy, NY.: Times Record, October 2, 1958), 28.
- 49 *Program, Concert Auspices of Cohoes Rotary Club*. February 3, 1959. (Albany, NY.: New York State Archives, District 7190, SC 22802. Box 4 Folder 81).
- 50 Ibid., *Rotary Club Pledges \$10,000 Toward Hospital*.
- 51 The *Citizen of the Year* award is given by the Rotary Club of Cohoes to anyone who made outstanding contributions to the community. The *Rotarian of the Year* award was given to a member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes who made outstanding contributions to Rotary.
- 52 Ibid., *City Engineer Named Rotary Citizen of the Year*.
- 53 *Cohoes, Waterford Recognize Van Alstine*. (Troy, NY.: The Record, March 8, 2000).
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- 108 The mission of the Cohoes Caretakers was to manage and protect Cohoes' history, tradition and buildings. They worked for the love of Cohoes and its heritage, and strove

to have all organizations and Cohoesiers work together for the betterment of the City of Cohoes and its people. From Linda Tremblay.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., Rota-Briefs, May 16, 2007.

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¹¹² Date that members joined Rotary, offices they held, and occupational affiliation are from membership records for the Rotary Club of Cohoes.

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¹¹⁶ In Rotary, club officers and board members are sworn into office annually. In June, each year the Rotary Club of Cohoes has an installation dinner or luncheon to do this.

¹¹⁷ The purpose of this group is to help Rotarians in clubs in District 7190 use technology provided by RI and the District as tools to help Rotary clubs manage.

¹¹⁸ Robert W. Van Alstine. *90th Anniversary Questionnaire Memories from Current Club Members*.

¹¹⁹ Cayuga Plaza is between the Cohoes Community Center, the Cohoes Senior Center and the Cohoes Senior Citizens Housing.

Congratulations

To the Rotary Club of Cohoes
on their 90th Anniversary!



Member of Assembly
John T. McDonald III
108th Assembly District

HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY ROTARY
CLUB OF COHOES. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY!



Mayor Shawn Morse
City of Cohoes



Congratulations



RON CANESTRARI



**COL. JOHN P. ROBERT
ROTARIAN SINCE 1960
PAUL HARRIS FELLOW**

I am deeply honored to be the President of the Rotary Club of Cohoes as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary. It is a tribute to the many Rotarians that came before us, and it is our job to ensure that Rotary will be here to serve the Community of Cohoes for the next 90 years and beyond.

Rotary is a volunteer organization of 1.2 million members consisting of business leaders uniting together to provide humanitarian services. Rotary clubs can be found in more than 200 countries made up of about 34,000 clubs, conducting projects to address modern day challenges. Some of these challenges that Rotarians have taken on include, literacy, disease, hunger, poverty and clean water.

I am indebted to Rotary for showing the meaning of *“Service Above Self”* and giving back to the community. I would like to thank our Past Presidents, past members and current members for leading our club through 90 years of service. I would also like to thank our current Board: Ed and Linda Tremblay, Stephanie Heslin, Mike Brooks, Marshall Barrett, Charles Reis, Peggy O’Shea, Bob Van Alstine and Dave Mitola.

Please help us in thanking Ed and Linda Trembley and our 90th Anniversary Committee to make tonight’s celebration possible. We would also like to thank District Governor John Mucha for presenting us with our new charter to help commemorate our 90 years of Service.

Yours in Rotary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ct Hovey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Curtis Hovey
President 2015-2017

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1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIEND-

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on your 90th Anniversary!

We proudly support the Rotary Club of Cohoes
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John Farrell

a

Paul Harris Recipient



**CONGRATULATIONS
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**Congratulations to Rotary Club of Cohoes
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Chris Madden—Community Service Chair
Jack Madden—President-Elect 2017-2018**



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For 90 Years of
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To the People of Cohoes**

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Rotary

Club Of Cohoes



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foundation rock on
which Rotary was built
and tolerance is the
element which holds it
together.”**

Paul P. Harris

Marie & Mike Brooks



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Barb Pailley

100th ANNIVERSARY



1917 -- 2017

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for their years of service to
City of Cohoes**

Want to Join Us?

Club Secretary: Mrs. Linda Tremblay

Phone: 518.235.4311

Email: secretary@rotaryclubofcohoes.org

Club Mailing Address:

Rotary Club of Cohoes

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 1940-1941 ROY E. SUMMERS 1941-1942 DANIEL J. COSGRO
 1942-1943 THOMAS E. MAYCOCK 1943-1944 JAMES J. O'BRIEN
 1944-1945 DR. F. HERRICK CONNORS 1945-1946 J. HARRY SODEN
 1946-1947 DR. CHARLES H. CLARK 1947-1948 FRANK HINES
 1948-1949 JOEL BAKER 1949-1950 AUGUS D. MAC AFFER
 1950-1951 WALTER EISNER 1951-1952 JOHN A. DIEHL
 1952-1953 ROBERT R. WILLIAMS 1953-1954 WILLIAM E. COULBOURN
 1954-1955 EDWARD T. BARNA 1955-1956 EARL W. MARTIN
 1956-1957 RUDOLPH A. GAGNON 1957-1958 CLYDE N. MILLER
 1957-1958 ROBERT VAN ALSTINE 1958-1959 GEORGE J. HASTINGS
 1959-1960 PETER DUBREY 1960-1961 WILLIAM E. COULBOURN
 1961-1962 GEORGE TRAHAN 1962-1963 GEORGE TRAHAN
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 1965-1966 WALTER HOFFMAN 1966-1967 ARTHUR DUCHESNE
 1967-1968 LEO HILTON 1968-1969 DR. PAUL ALBERT
 1969-1970 ROBERT G. HANLON 1970-1971 FRANK BISNETT
 1971-1972 ALEXANDER SHEREMETA 1972-1973 WILLIAM DILLON
 1973-1974 GEORGE PERRY 1974-1975 MIHRAN MOORADIAN
 1975-1976 ROBERT GULLIE 1976-1977 ROBERT A. CLARK
 1977-1978 MICHAEL ROBICH 1978-1979 JOHN MURPHY
 1979-1980 THOMAS J. DONNELLY 1980-1981 CHESTER DeLaMATER
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 1989-1990 JOHN FARRELL 1990-1991 ALBERT PASINELLA
 1991-1992 MICHAEL COOLEY 1992-1993 COLIN DEMERS
 1993-1994 PAUL WROBEL 1994 JOAN GUZEK 1995 WALTER SPEIDEL
 1995-1996 GILBERT DECICCO 1996-1997 DANA THOMPSON
 1997-1998 LINDA TREMBLAY 1998-1999 EDWARD J. SMITH
 1999-2000 BARBARA PAILLEY 2000-2001 JOHN DOEMEL
 2001-2002 GORDON SMITH 2002-2003 GORDON SMITH
 2003-2004 BARBARA PAILLEY 2004-2005 LINDA TREMBLAY
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 2007-2008 EDWARD DYER 2008-2009 COLIN DEMERS
 2009-2010 MARSHALL BARRETT 2010-2011 KEITH HORN BROOK
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2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL**
and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL**
to all concerned?



Rotary Club of Cohoes
P.O. Box 81
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 John Farrell
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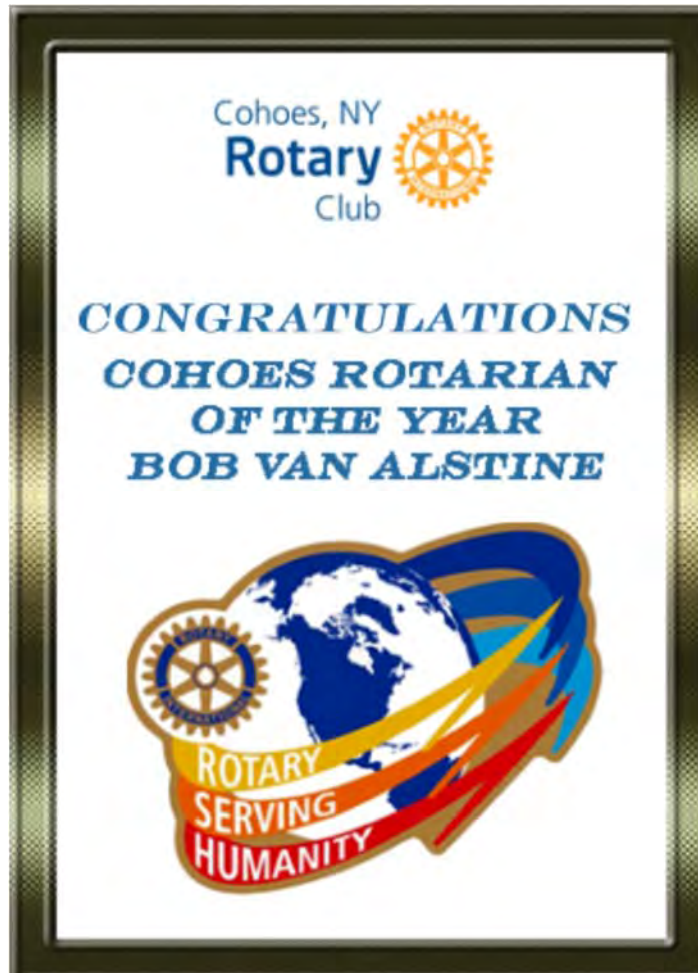
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President-Elect	Edward Tremblay
Secretary	Linda Tremblay
Treasurer	Michael Brooks
Sergeant-At-Arms	Marshall Barrett

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 David Mitola
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 Linda Tremblay
 Robert Van Alstine



Our Mission

The Rotary Club of Cohoes exists to promote goodwill and better friendships through service and support to the people of Cohoes.

Our Vision

The Rotary Club of Cohoes is a thriving, highly visible and respected service club of involved professionals who gather in the spirit of fellowship to provide support and service to the community.



*The Cohoes Rotary Club would like to
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Thank You Mike!*



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