TOLEDO ROTARY SPOKE

March 19th, 2020

108TH YEAR

ISSUE 230



MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TIM RYAN

Fellow Rotarians,



Click Here for Lucas County Covid-19 Infomation

I hope you are all well as we navigate our way through this public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you are all aware, all in person Rotary meetings, through the end of March, have been cancelled. We know, from our 100 plus year history, that friendships & fellowship are an important component of Rotary and we want to ensure that those tenants can continue through creative opportunities.

Our Club board met Tuesday morning via video conferencing with the bulk of conversation addressing our club's Monday meetings, committee meetings and club service projects; how do we keep those options available to you as member of Toledo Rotary? The conversation evolved and resulted with the following short-term solution:

Beginning Monday, and until further notice, we will begin hosting our weekly meetings as online meetings. An email link will be sent prior to those meetings. For Monday, March 23 we are confirming a representative from the Lucas County Health Department to provide a real-time update on the Coronavirus in our area and what area health officials need from the business community to keep everyone safe.

ZOOM Online Meetings

Zoom is an online platform for video and audio conferencing. If you have not used Zoom before, there are just a few easy steps to get started:

- 1. Before joining a Zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the Zoom app from their Download Center. Otherwise, you will be prompted to download and install Zoom when you click the join link.
- 2. Each meeting has a unique number called a meeting ID that will be required to join a Zoom meeting. **More details on the Zoom meeting and how to join will be sent early next week.**

President Tim cont.

The board has created an ad hoc committee that is working on this orchestration and implementation process for online meetings. We are working to confirm US Senator Sherrod Brown for April 6th. It is our intention that this solution will include the opportunity to participate during the meeting with comments and questions for the guest speaker.

Additionally, the member engagement committee and its Ambassadors will be making phone calls to Rotarians. The purpose of the calls is to stay connected with each other during this challenging time and to hear how you are experiencing this crisis.

Toledo Rotary is exploring opportunities for us to volunteer to support others in 'service above self'; two such opportunities are featured in the pages below including the United Way invitation I recently emailed to you inviting you to participate in the city-wide program to help feed kids in our community. We welcome your ideas for other club and/or partnership projects as we move through the next several weeks.

I wish you all my best, stay well, and please reach out directly to the Rotary office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, President Tim

Message from the Executive Director

<u>Toledo Rotary Serving as Business Liaison</u>

On Sunday afternoon, I received a call from Benjamin Pushka, executive assistant to County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak. Ben asked if Toledo Rotary would serve as one of our community business liaisons for distribution of key communications to Rotarians throughout Lucas County and the region. Situation updates and supporting resources & other documents will be shared with you through our website and with District Governor Carolyn to share with our surrounding Rotary Clubs.

General information received late last night:

Business/Nonprofit

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, there are a number of financial resources available to small businesses and nonprofits. The Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Process has been established through the local Business Development Services at the Toledo Chamber of Commerce. Small businesses are considered organizations with 500 or fewer employees. This program provides low-interest loans to help businesses and nonprofits overcome the temporary loss of revenue. Bill from the SBDC said that this is not a quick solution, and will require lots of documentation. SBDC is also suggesting that business owners start reaching out to lenders, suppliers, landlords, etc. to defer payments. The SBDC will help businesses as they can. Here is the link. If you have questions, or need assistance with this program, at the bottom of the web page is a place to leave a reply. Put your information in and someone from the SBDC will reach out to you.

Lucas County Cont.

https://www.toledochamber.com/blog/sba-economic-injury-disaster-loan-process

Workforce Development Needs

Although the OhioMeansJobs Lucas County building is closed to the public, businesses and workers can still receive assistance from staff by phone, email or online. Companies needing aid are still able to receive help in recruiting workers, managing potential reductions in force, and planning for the weeks ahead. Staff will continue to reach out to employers in an effort to determine their needs, to follow up with on-going projects and provide assistance to companies that may qualify for small business support from the State of Ohio. Employers needing help can call 419-213-3300 or email tforeman@co.lucas.oh.us with a brief explanation of the needed assistance. Individuals can still receive help by phone from OhioMeansJobs staff or online by visiting www.OhioMeansJobs.com where they can search and apply for jobs, create a resume and explore the various services available. Unfortunately, until the COVID-19 crisis has abated, face-to-face meetings with staff are on hold although individuals needing to drop off paperwork can call their case managers to make suitable arrangements.

Unemployment Benefits

On Sunday, Governor DeWine announced changes to the Ohio Unemployment Benefits will be made. The order from Governor DeWine broadens state policy to clarify that individuals who are quarantined are considered to be unemployed. This also applies to businesses that determine they need to temporarily shut down. The order also waves the one-week waiting period normally required before receipt of benefits. The State does not want to penalize employers by increasing their future taxes. The costs of the benefits will be mutualized over time and they will be waiving penalties for late filing and payments for the duration of the emergency.

Ohioans can file online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at <u>unemployment.ohio.gov</u>. We encourage people to file online, if possible. However, they also may file by phone at (877) OHIO-JOB (1-877-644-6562) or TTY at (888) 642-8203, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m..

A link to our website is inserted here, <u>www.toledorotary.org</u>, will showcase all communications I receive from the county. I invite you to visit it on a regular basis for updates as they unfold.

Best Regards, Stay well, Kathy Tate Executive Director

Lucas County Situation Report
Hand Washing Poster
Stop The Spread Sheet
Employer Letter
Visitor Sign

Community Needs & Service Project Opportunities

American Red Cross

Blood Services & Covid-19

An update on the critical need for blood donations at this time. Due to many blood drive cancellations across our area, we are in need of blood donations.

Shortage As Coronavirus Outbreak Threatens Availability of Nation's Supply

Nearly 2,700 Red Cross blood drives have been canceled across the country due to coronavirus concerns, resulting in some 86,000 fewer blood donations.

The American Red Cross now faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Healthy individuals are needed now to donate to help patients counting on lifesaving blood.

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood with the American Red Cross by visiting www.RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

As the coronavirus pandemic has grown here in the U.S., blood drive cancellations have grown at an alarming rate. To date, nearly, 2,700 Red Cross blood drives have been canceled across the country due to concerns about congregating at workplaces, college campuses and schools amidst the coronavirus outbreak. These cancellations have resulted in some 86,000 fewer blood donations. More than 80 percent of the blood the Red Cross collects comes from drives held at these locations.

Volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need

The Red Cross expects the number of cancellations to continue to increase, which is causing heightened concern for blood collection organizations and hospitals across the country. This blood shortage could impact patients who need surgery, victims of car accidents and other emergencies, or patients suffering from cancer.

"I am looking at the refrigerator that contains only one day's supply of blood for the hospital," said Dr. Robertson Davenport, director of Transfusion Medicine at Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor. "The hospital is full. There are patients who need blood and cannot wait."

"As a nation, this is a time where we must take care of one another including those most vulnerable among us in hospitals," said Gail McGovern, president and chief executive officer, American Red Cross. "One of the most important things people can do right now during this public health emergency is to give blood. If you are healthy and feeling well, please make an appointment to donate as soon as possible."

Community Needs & Service Project Opportunities Cont.

American Red Cross

Covid-19

Be Red Cross Ready – helpful information on how to prepare and cope with the outbreak.

Be **Red Cross** Ready

Prepare so you can protect.



Steps to Help Protect Against Coronavirus COVID-19

About Coronavirus COVID-19

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a new Coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in China and has now spread to multiple countries including the U.S.
- According to the CDC, patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness.
 Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and include fever, cough and shortness of breath.
- Call your healthcare professional if you develop symptoms and have been in close contact with a person known to have the disease, or if you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of the disease.
- The following health and preparedness tips can help you stay healthy and prepare for possible disruptions due to this coronavirus. Most importantly, stay informed about the latest information by visiting the CDC website at cdc.gov/covid19.

To Help Prevent the Spread of Respiratory Illnesses, Use Healthy Practices:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it would take you to sing 'Happy Birthday' twice) or, if soap is not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- · Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash. If a tissue isn't available, cough or sneeze
 into your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using facemasks, which is for people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of disease to others, and for health workers and caregivers in close settings.
- Practice healthy habits: get sleep, eat nutritious food, drink fluids, be physically active and manage stress.
- Influenza and pneumococcal disease are the leading causes of vaccine-preventable respiratory illness in the U.S., so protect yourself with an annual flu vaccine and if eligible, the pneumonia vaccine.

To Prepare your Household for a Possible COVID-19 Outbreak in the U.S., Use Preparedness Practices:

- Obtain at least a 2-week supply of food staples, household and sanitary products, if asked to stay home (a best practice to increase your preparedness for any hazard).
- · Keep current prescription medications in regular supply, with at least a 30-day supply of needed health items.
- Learn how your local public health authorities will provide guidance to your community and stay informed.
- Learn how your children's school or daycare, and your workplace plan to handle a possible outbreak. Create a
 plan to accommodate any closings, event cancellations or postponements.
- If you care for older adults or children, plan and prepare for caring for them, should they or you become sick.

Community Needs & Service Project Opportunities Cont.

The United Way

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

United Way of Greater Toledo is looking for volunteers over the next three weeks to help build weekend meal packs & distribute the packs, in addition to lunch/breakfast meals, for TPS students displaced from school. Additional details are listed below, and the link to sign up as a volunteer is www.feedtoledokids.org. There are over 1,500 time slots that need to be filled. We will be taking all sanitary precautions for these volunteer opportunities, such as hand washing, sanitizing, offering gloves, and social distancing volunteers.

There are two ways to volunteer.

Build meal packs. These volunteers will sign up in small group blocks (25 or less) for a one hour shift on Tuesday or Wednesday for the next 3 weeks. Volunteers will help to assemble 10,000+ shelf stable weekend meal kits.

Distribute meals beginning March 18 at one of 15 locations around Toledo. These shifts are from 10:45 am -1:15 pm and locations will be finalized on Monday. These working groups will again be small groups (5 or less) helping to distribute thousands of meals each day.

Volunteers can sign up at www.feedtoledokids.org on multiple distribution days, as consistent volunteers will help expedite the distribution. We ask that at any time if volunteers are feeling sick, if they are someone in a high risk audience or someone who cares for that population, they do not volunteer at this time.

United Way is working with Connecting kids to Meals, TPS and many other partners in our community to help children get food during this school shutdown. Please sign up to volunteer at www.feedtoledokids.org, email jennifer.archer@unitedwaytoledo.org with any questions about this volunteer opportunity.

If you or your staff need help with accessing food or information during this time remember you can call 2-1-1 24/7. 2-1-1 is a community resource for questions about many aspects of daily life within Lucas County. As parts of our daily lives shift on a frequent basis in response to COVID-19, it can be difficult to keep up with the latest information. That said, all medical questions must be redirected to the Lucas County Community COVID-19 lines (419-251-4000 and 419-291-5355) to talk to medical professionals who are available 24/7 to answer your inquiries.

2-1-1 continues to serve as a critical community lifeline, connecting citizens with resources. If you have questions about closures or the status of assistance programs, please feel free to reach out to 2-1-1 for this information. If you would prefer to find information online, please visit Toledo-Lucas County Health Department website at

https://lucascountyhealth.com/coronavirusupdates

Thanks so much for your support in this effort!

Chad J. Rutkowski M.Ed. | Senior Development Officer

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