



TOLEDO ROTARY SPOKE

May 13th, 2021 | 108TH YEAR | ISSUE 277

Monday, May 17th, 2021

ZOOM LINK!

[Click Here to join meeting via ZOOM](#)

Zoom Meeting ID:
628 349 736



John C. Jones
CEO/President
HOPE Toledo

HOPE TOLEDO

A Comprehensive Community-Based Approach to Educating our Youth

Imagine a community in which all of its children have access to high-quality education from birth to career. Imagine the impact, not only on individuals and families but on the community as a whole. Toledo can be that community, and one vehicle to help achieve that vision is HOPE Toledo. John C. Jones, President, HOPE Toledo will share the background, current efforts, and future plans for HOPE Toledo.

John Jones is a proven leader with expertise in diversity, inclusion, board governance, strategic community building, and leadership development. HOPE Toledo is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the premise that strengthening education will increase opportunity for all of Toledo's children and youth, grow prosperity for its residents, and improve the future for our families and neighborhoods. John leads HOPE Toledo's focus to advocate, support, and ensure equitable access to high-quality education for Toledo children and youth via two strategies—expanding high-quality early childhood education (preschool) for Toledo four-year-olds, and expanding the opportunity for Toledo high school graduates to obtain a scholarship to a college, career-technical, or post-secondary trade school.

Prior to HOPE Toledo, John served for more than 16 years in various roles for ProMedica, with his last assignment as the Community Liaison with the Social Determinants of Health team. John previously served the community as the President and CEO of the Greater Toledo Urban League from 2008 – 2012. He is a certified diversity practitioner and is accredited by the American Hospital Association's Institute for Diversity and Health Equity. He has an MBA from the University of Toledo (2013) and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance from Central State University (1996).

John serves the community in various capacities through organizations, boards, and other volunteer opportunities. His greatest calling is being an ordained minister. He serves as an Associate Minister at the Christian Temple Baptist Church under the leadership and pastorate of his father, Rev. Charles E. Jones.

Preaching and ministering for 20 years, John clearly defines who he is through this service and it is the guiding principle for what he does in his professional life. John resides in Toledo with his wife Charity. His most significant blessings are his three beautiful children, Naomi Elise, Cathryn Elisabeth, and John Michael.

Upcoming Monday Meetings

May 24th
Shelia Eason
CEO
Elevate People Solutions, LLC

May 31st
NO MEETING
Memorial Day Holiday

Upcoming Committee Meetings

May 17th - 1:00 PM
Vocational Services

May 24th - 1:00 PM
Peace Committee

A couple of weeks ago, PP Tom Backoff announced an exciting challenge grant from an anonymous donor: WHEN WE REACH 75% MEMBER PARTICIPATION, OF ANY DOLLAR AMOUNT, WE RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 DONATION TOWARD THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN. **We only need 24 additional member donors** to contribute by May 31st, 2021 in order to achieve this challenge! If you haven't had the opportunity to contribute yet, now is the time to make your gift! Your gift will make a difference.

Please join the generous member donors listed below by making your contribution at www.toledorotary.org.

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Rotarians In The News!

Rotarian Tommy Roemer Was A Child Star!



We are lucky to have Rotarian Tommy Roemer Vice-Chair of the Board of Roemer Insurance, here in Toledo. Once upon a time, Thomas "Tommy" Roemer, or otherwise known as "Romeo" as a kid, was on track to be a Broadway star! After digging deep into some archives, we came across this news story of Tommy's short-lived fame in Toledo and New York as a child performer. Tommy tells of how as a child, his dad took him back and forth from Toledo to New York for acting and performance opportunities. Tommy was on track to perform on Broadway when his Dad asked him how serious he was and if he wanted to continue the back and forth? Tommy didn't want to be away from his family at Christmas and so Tommy's response was, "I want to play football"! Tommy went on to attend The Ohio State University, marry the love of his life, have two daughters, and run the family business that his father started in 1938! Tommy has been a Rotarian since 1973 and currently chairs the Bowling Committee. To see Tommy's video from years past click the circle.

[Click HERE to see Tommy's video](#)

Rotarian Mark Urrutia Receives Golden Pelican Award



Catholic Order of Foresters General Agent, Mark Urrutia, has received a Golden Pelican Award from the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Catholic Diocese of Toledo. The award recognizes those who have contributed to the spiritual development of Catholic youths in Scouting programs. For more than 10 years, Urrutia has supported the Erie Shores Council of the Boy Scouts of America as the volunteer leader. As chair for the Scoutreach division, he serves the center city and scouting in underserved communities. Under his leadership, youth served grew from just over 200 to more than 1,000. He also volunteered with Troop 87 sponsored by St. Joseph Catholic Parish in Sylvania and led the chartering of the Queen of Apostles' scouting program.



Monday, May 10th Recap

[Watch Meeting
Video HERE](#)



Economic Development In Toledo

Brandon Selhurst

Commissioner Economic &
Business Development
City of Toledo



On Monday, Brandon shared a plethora of information including the massive developments happening across our metropolitan area. He told the Club about the millions of dollars in development happening including the new Amazon Distribution Center and the Downtown Riverwalk. To see Brandon's presentation in its entirety, please click the link above.

Brandon Selhurst serves as Commissioner of Economic Development for the City of Toledo. In this role, Brandon is primarily responsible for facilitating major development projects, managing the City's real estate portfolio, and increasing job creation and investment through attraction, expansion, and retention of private sector companies. Under his leadership, the City has sold over 400-acres of underutilized property that led to the creation of more than 1,000 jobs and \$130 million of investment. The City has also been nationally recognized by Site Selection Magazine who ranked Toledo in the top 10 for mid-size metros excelling in economic development for the past five years. The City clinched the #1 spot in the ranking for the first time in 2021.

Prior to joining the City, Brandon worked for the Regional Growth Partnership where he proactively worked with communities to prepare sites for job creation projects. Before the RGP, Brandon worked at the City of Cincinnati's Department of Economic Development and REDI Cincinnati where he led incentive negotiations for job creation projects in Southwest Ohio.

Brandon graduated cum laude from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning and a Master of Business Administration and Real Estate. He was also named Student of the Year by the University of Cincinnati's Real Estate Center. His passion and determination for improving his hometown led him back to the Glass City several years ago.

Brandon lives in South Toledo with his wife, son, and dog. He's an avid runner who enjoys live music, traveling, the Cincinnati Reds, Bengals, and Michigan football games.

Summer Social Scavenger Hunt!

June 24th, 2021

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Rotarians, plan to have some fun and fellowship, as you "hunt" around the museum for clues while enjoying a beverage from Tapped 419 and delectables from a local food truck. Food will be available for purchase.

Who knows? Maybe you will learn a little something along the way!

Rotary
Club of Toledo



NATIONAL
MUSEUM
of the
GREAT
LAKES

The event will be outside and follow COVID safety protocols.

In-Person Meetings Begin June 7th! Zoom option too!

RSVP



Keep your eyes open for new TUESDAY e-mail reminders beginning May 18th so that you can RSVP and purchase your lunch ticket for upcoming Monday Meetings. On June 7th, Rotary Club of Toledo will host its first in-person meeting at the Toledo Club in the main dining room. *Rotarians attending in-person will be asked to RSVP and purchase their lunch tickets at least one week prior to the meeting.* Lunch tickets will be purchased online. The first RSVP email will be sent on May 18th. A **zoom** option will continue to be available for meetings. We are looking forward to seeing Rotarians in person! Seating is currently limited to 66 due to COVID safety protocols so make sure you RSVP early!

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Club of Toledo

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Toledo Rotary Website | toledorotary.org

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RI Website | rotary.org