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TOLEDO ROTARY CLUB

SPOKE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2ND, 2026 | ISSUE 468



TOLEDO POLICE NEXT DOOR PROGRAM

Join us for the first program of 2026 when we are joined by Stephen Serchuk and William Farnsel to tell us about the Toledo Police Next Door Program.

The Toledo Police Next Door Program is a Privately Funded and Privately Administered program to increase public safety and home ownership in the City of Toledo by providing Toledo Police Officers with down payment assistance to purchase homes within the City of Toledo - leading to a city that is safer, stronger, and a more desirable place to live.

This presentation is presented by duo Stephen Serchuk and William Farnsel. Steve has been a commercial real estate agent for 50 years, and worked for the City of Toledo as the first Neighborhood Planner from 1972-1977. He also is largely involved in giving back to the community through volunteerism with various organizations. William Farnsel is the Chief Executive Officer of Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo, Inc. (dba NeighborWorks Toledo Region). NTR is a non-profit charitable organization whose principal business lines include lending in support of homeownership and homeowner occupied rehabilitation; affordable housing development; residential energy conservation and homebuyer education and housing counseling. Bill also is a Board Member of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

Together, Steve and Bill assist Toledo Police Officers with obtaining housing and managing the entire process. We look forward to hearing more about this initiative at the Glass City Center on January 5th!

Note: It has been in place for a few weeks now, but you should be informed that the parking garage at Glass City Center has a new flow of traffic within the garage. If you have not attended a program lately, please stay to the right of the garage after entering. This affords you the opportunity to park closer to the entry doors and elevator. Thank you for your attention to this information.

[Zoom Link](#)
[Meeting ID: 827 0168 4208](#)



Meeting Location:
Glass City Center,
Ballroom, 2nd floor

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!



UPCOMING PROGRAM SPEAKERS



*Charlene Page, Owens Comm. College
Meeting at Glass City Center
in Main Ballroom*



*No Meeting in Honor of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day*



*Dr. James Holloway, University of Toledo
Meeting at Glass City Center
in Main Ballroom*



*Service Above Self Day
Sign Up Today!
(More projects to be added)*

BOOK CLUB JANUARY 20TH

**Join us for Book Club
TUESDAY, January 20th at
5:30 PM.**

**Happening at Poco Piatti
on Central Avenue.
All Rotarians are welcome!**

**The book selection is
"A Guide to Midwestern
Conversation" by Taylor Kay Phillips.**

**If you are interested in attending,
please email Mari Davies at
mdavies@artstoledo.com.**

THANK YOU TO JANUARY'S MONTHLY MEETING SPONSOR!

ABOUT DAN:

Dan is a Toledo native, father of young children, and Rotary member since 2012. He's deeply involved in the Northwest Ohio through various civic, professional and social organizations. Dan understands firsthand the challenge of balancing a growing business with family life, and spends his time involved in the various activities three kids bring.

ABOUT SKILLFUL STRATEGIES:

Skillful Strategies helps business owners build stronger businesses and ultimately prepare owners for their eventual transition and exit. As a Certified Exit Planning Advisor (CEPA), Dan works with owners on what's often called the "three-legged stool" of exit readiness: personal vision for life after the business, financial preparedness, and business value optimization. Most business owners spend decades building their companies but considerably less time planning for what comes next. Dan's practice addresses this gap by helping owners develop clarity around their transition timeline and readiness across all three areas. His work ranges from comprehensive multi-year exit planning to foundational business coaching for businesses of all sizes. He's developed educational programs and works with other professional advisors who recognize that successful business transitions require coordination across multiple disciplines. The focus is on helping business owners understand where they are today and what steps will move them toward their desired future, whether that transition is five years away or fifteen.

We invite you to connect with him directly and learn more about Skillful Strategies today!



Dan@skillfulstrats.com



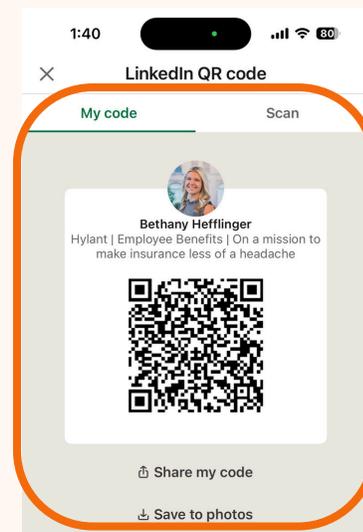
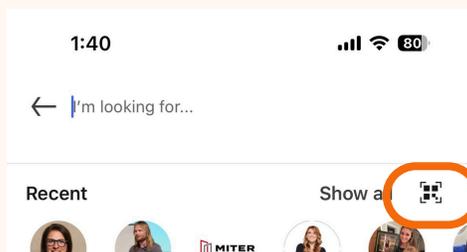
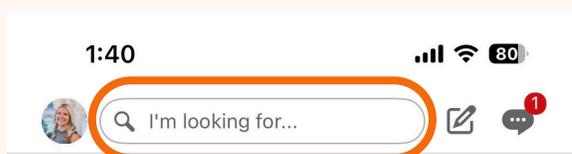
JANUARY JUMPSTART

Vocational Service Month Challenges

LINKEDIN LIFT

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GAVE YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE A LITTLE LOVE? KEEPING IT CURRENT MAKES IT EASIER TO CONNECT WITH FELLOW ROTARIANS AND HIGHLIGHT THE GREAT WORK YOU'RE DOING. HERE ARE A FEW QUICK, IMPACTFUL UPDATES TO CONSIDER

- **Photo:** Does your photo still look like you? A yearly refresh keeps things accurate and approachable.
- **Header Image:** Still rocking the default blue? Swap it for an image that reflects your personal or professional brand.
- **Headline:** You have 220 characters—use them! Include your title, a personal vision statement, or a short value message
- **Contact Info:** Double-check your email, phone, and website (if you choose to include them).
- **About Section:** Tell your story! Focus on the first 300 characters—they appear before “See more.”
- **Invitation Strategy:** Always personalize connection requests. Example: “Great meeting you at Rotary today—would love to connect here!”
- **Posting Strategy:** Share content regularly—whatever cadence fits your style.
- **Engagement:** Go beyond likes! Thoughtful comments (8+ words) boost visibility. Instead of “Congrats!” try: “Congratulations! Wishing you the best in your new role!”
- **Quick Connect at Meetings:** Use LinkedIn’s QR code feature to connect instantly. (Open the app → Search bar → QR icon → Share or scan.)



challenge

PICK 3 TO UPDATE ON YOUR PROFILE

January is Vocational Service Month! Rotary’s Vocational Service reminds us that our professions are powerful tools for good. This month, we celebrate the unique skills and experiences each member brings to Rotary—and explore ways to connect, learn, and serve through our work. Check out these opportunities to engage.