



# ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, MO | January 4, 2017 | **Service above self.** | See the need. Do the deed.

## Today's program

Brent Probasco's guest today is **Julie German**, medical imaging manager at Cass Regional Medical Center. She will bring us up to date on the hospital's new MRI addition. You can tour the remodeled and expanded facilities during an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25.

## Future programs

- January 11** - Business meeting
- January 18** - RYE student Collin Schlegel's mother, Robin Villa, will be our guest speaker.
- January 25** - Kevin Shelton
- February 1** - Laurence Smith
- February 8** - Business meeting
- February 15** - Sam Styron

## Birthdays

- January 9** - Kim Dimmitt
- January 24** - John Coffey

## Officers

- President** .....Shauna Stephenson
- President-Elect** .....TBD
- Secretary** .....Jill Filer
- Treasurer** .....Jessica Junge
- Directors** .....Cindy Greenwell, Larry Pfautsch, Bing Schimmelpfenning and Chris Deal
- Sgt.-at-Arms** .....Lynn Laffoon
- Past President** .....Jessica Junge

## Contact info.

Rotary Club of Harrisonville #2368  
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## December 21 meeting

### Bill Mills shares impressions from People to People trip to Cuba

Cuba is very much a country of haves and have-nots, Bills Mills told Rotarians as he recapped a recent group trip to the island nation (population 11.5 million) organized by People to People International.

Since the U.S. lifted travel restrictions, Americans have been flocking to the land of the late dictator Fidel Castro. People to People was founded in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower to promote international peace and understanding (much like Rotary). Bill said there were 19 people in his tour group, headed by former Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes. To travel to Cuba, Americans must do so under either a medical or educational purpose, but as Bill said, "Really, it's tourism to get our money."

Bill noted that Rotary has not yet returned to Cuba, but there may be some hope given that the Rotary has made a comeback in countries like Russia and China.

Using slides from his trip, Bill offered the following observations about Cuba:

- The country has two currencies, a convertible peso or CUC, and a local peso, or CUP. It costs tourists 13% to exchange money, all of which goes to the government.
- Everybody works for the government in one way or another. Most people get a government salary of 20 CUPs (local pesos) a month, equivalent to \$20. People need more than this to survive, so they sell goods to tourists. The black market is rampant in almost everything.
- Sugar cane is the major crop, employing many people who often live in high-rise apartment buildings.
- Education and medical care are free, but as with other things in Cuba, there are two systems, one for the haves and the other for the have-nots.
- Many tourists never see the "real" Cuba. Canadians and Europeans, who have been free to travel to Cuba for many years, typically stay at upscale resorts on a well-manicured and gated peninsula with a separate airport.

All in all, Bill did not feel the trip was worthwhile because there was no humanitarian purpose and all he did was support the Cuban government with his money.





Thanks to Nancy, Ella and Isabelle Shelton and Lynn Laffoon for showing Sumo a good time over the holidays with visits to the Nelson Gallery and the Crown Center Ice Terrace.

## More adventures for Sumo



Phil Gebauer gave a classification talk at our Dec. 28 meeting. A Farmers Insurance representative in Harrisonville, Phil joined the club in 2016.

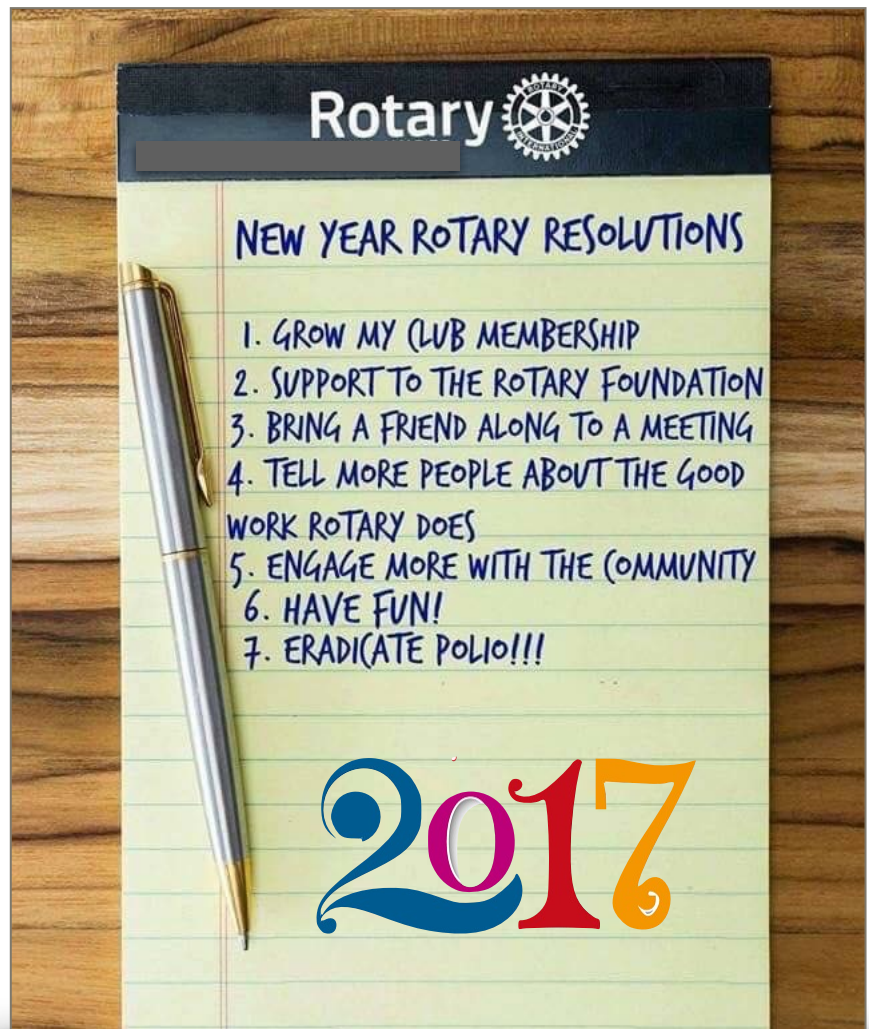
## Calendar

January 9

**Monthly Board Meeting** — 4 p.m.,  
School Administration Building.

January 18

**RYE program** — Hear what's happening with Collin Schlegel, our RYE student in Italy, as his mother, Robin Villa, visits the club.



Rotary

### NEW YEAR ROTARY RESOLUTIONS

1. GROW MY CLUB MEMBERSHIP
2. SUPPORT TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION
3. BRING A FRIEND ALONG TO A MEETING
4. TELL MORE PEOPLE ABOUT THE GOOD WORK ROTARY DOES
5. ENGAGE MORE WITH THE COMMUNITY
6. HAVE FUN!
7. ERADICATE POLIO!!!

2017