

NEW ROTARY CLUB SHOWS MEDICAL CAMPUS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

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DISTRICT 7090

Buffalo, NY – It seems like a natural fit. Natural that a group of dedicated people who “promote a knowledge-based transformation of Western New York” would also be, “neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.”

That’s what you get when you mix The Buffalo-Niagara Medical Campus and Rotary International. It sounded like the right mix for a group of several dozen civic-minded folks within the campus burgeoning with Buffalo’s most innovative leaders in medical, technology and research fields.

With new expansion coming all the time, David Johnson, a Buffalo area doctor and a Rotarian and Pat Whalen, a veteran Buffalo Rotary club member, thought a new club with a new twist would be the perfect fit, and a great way to build a sense of community. “Many communities with of 17,000-20,000 people have a Rotary Club,” said Whalen, COO of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Inc. “Seeing that the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus is approaching that number, why not form a club?” They held an informational meeting in April of 2014 and over fifty potential Rotarians crowded the small conference room.

It became official Monday, June 30, 2014 when The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Rotary Club received its charter and officially joined the ranks of 70 other Rotary clubs in District 7090 – “The Best of Friends District” (Western New York, USA and Southern Ontario, Canada), and 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide.

The twist comes in the way they meet. Most clubs meet for breakfast, lunch or dinner, host a speaker, and then conduct business-- but this group meets Monday evenings from 5pm- 6pm, offering shorter meetings for already busy professionals who have other commitments like meetings during the day and family in the evenings. After each business meeting at the Jacobs Institute (in the heart of the downtown Buffalo Medical Campus) the usual more formal meal is being replaced with a more casual happy hour for those who don’t have to get back to work or family..

The 60 charter members have since been joined by 30 more with enough in the wings to reach 100 by the end of calendar 2014. They are already making positive impacts on the community and around the world. It’s a fitting notion as The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus continues to welcome people from all over the world to Buffalo.