

# ROTARY ANCHOR



## New London Rotary Club

District 7980 Club 6741

Chartered April 11, 1917

P.O. Box 654  
New London, CT 06320  
www.newlondonrotary.org

AM Meeting: Thursdays at 7AM—Muddy Waters, New London  
Lunch Meeting: Thursdays at 12:15 PM—La Luna/Holiday Inn, New London

Meeting: Thursday, January 14, 2016

### Program:

**January 14**  
**Higher Edge**  
**Chris Soto**

**January 21**  
Centennial Project Proposals  
Andy Russell, Chuck Ramey and Rick Gipstein

### Reporter:

January 14 Mark Patnode  
January 21 Todd Gipstein

### Invocation:

January 14 Tom Hogsten  
January 21 Dawn Londregan

### Greeter:

January 14 Tom Hogsten  
January 21 Bill Schmidt

### Song Leader:

January 14 Helen Sandalls  
January 21

### Birthdays:

January 16 Mel Foti  
January 19 Myron Hendel  
Isabelle Singer

### Anniversaries:

January 15 Joanne Cain & Greg

### Soup Kitchen

**TODAY Thursday, January 14th**

4:00-6:15 pm

New London Community Meal Center

### Thought of the Day:

“Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go.”

- Hermann Hesse

### Paul Harris Fellows

Congratulations to President Julia who was awarded the Paul Harris second level and Pete Connair who was awarded with a Paul Harris ruby at the January 7th meeting.



Photo credit: Todd Gipstein

Pete Connair was also presented with the beautiful crystal statue in appreciation for his ongoing financial contributions to Rotary.

### Mayor Michael Passero

Presenter: Mayor Michael Passero Reporter: Mark Patnode

December 17, 2015 — The noon meeting began with the induction of Diane Levi, Banquet Manager and Director of Catering and Special Events at the Holiday Inn. She was inducted by her Sponsor, Ed Cramer, and District Governor Gerry Tom, who currently oversees a District of 61 Clubs. Mitchell College Corporate Members were also recognized with a distribution of certificates to all four members.

President Julia Kushigian-Secor introduced Helen Sandalls for the formal introduction of Michael and Mary Passero. In beginning his remarks Mayor Passero reflected on his previous campaign remarks of “No one is going to save us from ourselves.”

Mayor Passero first welcomed Atlantic Broadband to the community and Chris Cox, Penny Parsekian’s guest, and a friend for years from sailing.

Mayor Passero acknowledged Mary Lenzini and meetings he had attended at Muddy Waters on Thursday mornings. He thanked Steve Percy for his announcement of Junior ROTC program reflections and then thanked Tom Hogsten for recruiting him to speak today.

Mayor Passero’s first order of business was to assure New London Rotary that the semaphore station on the side of the police station will be lit.

Mayor Passero also acknowledged he had been invited by Past President Bill Schmidt to speak years back. In those previous meetings, he talked about himself and family and during the campaign so he wanted to take a break from that today.

Mayor Passero had been serving on the City Council for several years, which led him to his current position. With 208 weeks left to go, he wants a city that doesn’t have its hand out. Acknowledging “New London Proud” and “Whaler Proud,” Mayor Passero reflected on a city of optimistic people who don’t need a glum government: “Let’s have fun at this!”

A government that unleashes talent and empowers the people is what he’s looking for. Organizing and trying to gather all the talent is his focus. “If you have a dream for this city then we want you involved,” the Mayor said.

In acknowledging the strength of the Arts community in the City, Mayor Passero expressed the important underpinnings of the economy that this community brings such as the Hygienic Art Gallery and Guard Arts Center: “These are sustainable institutions that improve our quality of life.”

He noted that the community needs are great, but the city has a limited capital budget and the annual budget cannot sustain new ventures. He also noted there is a need for a first-rate recreation center for the city. A 1979 Connecticut College graduate, Mayor Passero swims daily at the College and wants a city of 27,000 people to have something close to that concept. “We need a new paradigm. Government needs to partner with non-government entities,” the Mayor said.

Mayor Passero gave great credit to New London Rotary Club for the Playscape at Toby May Park. He encouraged similar efforts be directed towards McDonald Park at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and McDonald Street. “If we can redo that park it will energize the neighborhood. We need a partner and I’m hoping I can entice you into that partnership with the city.”

Noting his thirty-one years of marriage to Mary, he said there’s a lot of optimism in addressing issues. He then took questions from the audience regarding Fort Trumbull and the Coast Guard Museum. In closing, Rod White led the attendees singing a ‘Holly Jolly Christmas’ as a reception line was formed to greet Mayor and Mrs. Passero as well as Diane Levi.

