

**AUGUST 27, 2020**

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

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

**John Silsby**

*Assistant Governor, District 7980*

**September 3 Steve Manuel**

New London County  
Historical Society

**September 10 In Person Meeting**  
at Ocean Beach Park

**September 17 Prof. Anna Vallye,**  
Connecticut College  
Review of Redevelopment  
Projects in New London

### Weekly Zoom Meeting

Please join us today at noon for our weekly Rotary meeting via Zoom. It's very convenient and all you need is a decent shirt/top/blouse/sweater (pants optional).

Go to [ZOOM.COM](https://zoom.us) and click "JOIN A MEETING" and enter the info below.

**ID=839 1199 1847**

**PW=542978**

### BIRTHDAYS:

None

### ANNIVERSARIES

August 28 James & Ellen H. McGuire

*"The only true gift is a  
portion of yourself."*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Report for August 20, 2020

by Bruce MacDonald

At its very essence, the Norwich-based Haitian Health Foundation is a family-run enterprise, but in no way can it be confused with a mom and pop operation, one that nibbles around the edges of the human tragedy that is Haiti.

Marilyn Lowney, the foundation's executive director, walked us through the operation and sketched the enormity of the challenge facing the organization.

Dr. Jeremiah Lowney began work in the remote city of Jeremie in 1987 at the request of Mother Teresa herself. From the beginning, his wife, Virginia, has been an active participant. She continues to head the Save a Family program that provides invaluable assistance.

His children, including Marilyn, have all pitched in over the years, as have countless numbers of volunteers.

No small number of donors help, along with the many who travel with the Lowneys to Haiti and work on behalf of the people they find there.

The volunteers, individuals from all walks of life and organizations like our Rotary club, bring their skills to a land sorely in need of them, or provide the financial resources to get the job done. Volunteers work here in the U.S. as well.

Rotary has been with us almost from the very beginning, Marilyn said.

Dr. Lowney began his Haitian experience as part of a mission trip organized by the Diocese of Norwich. Complete with a portable autoclave and the various shiny instruments used in the modern practice of dentistry, he set up shop in an alley way adjacent to a clinic run by the nuns of Mother Teresa.

The lines were long. Many of his patients had never seen a dentist before, and you could imagine what he saw when he instructed them to "open wide," or the Creole equivalent of that basic directive.

Extracting diseased teeth was important, but he knew there was more he could do to help people who are often described as being among "the poorest of the poor".

Never one to sit back and await whatever fate were to bring his way, the orthodontist from Norwich reached out to Mother Teresa. She wanted him to open a broad-based medical clinic in Jeremie. It became a haven for those in need, one that provides much more than basic medical services.

Before that took shape, however, Dr. Lowney had what just might be called a life-changing experience during a visit to an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's order of nuns.




"While there, he picked up a child, who was all skin and bones," his daughter, Marilyn, told us. "She died in his arms," she said, and he had an epiphany. He knew what he had to do, and that involved going to Jeremie.

Today, providing a variety of services to a quarter million people, the Foundation stays focused, not on the enormity of the problems confronting the people of Haiti, but on making a difference in the lives of individual Haitians.

"Our motto has always been 'one person at a time.'"

A detailed look at the HHF can be found on the group's website: [www.haitianhealthfoundation.org](http://www.haitianhealthfoundation.org).

It's worth a few minutes of your time, even if you heard the presentation.

The  
**ROTARY**  
  
  
**ANCHOR**  


A Bulletin of the Rotary Club of New London

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