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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Rotary District 7350 Holds District-wide Speech Contest During Conference  
Scholarship Awards Presented to Three High School Students**

**STATE COLLEGE, PA, May 21, 2008** – A winning speaker was chosen from Rotary District 7350's district-wide Four-Way Speech Contest for high school students on Saturday, May 11. The competition was the final phase of three competitions, resulting in scholarship awards for the winner and two finalists. Joanna Guy, a senior from Oakland, Maryland, was awarded first place in the competition, which took place at The Penn Stater Conference Center on May 11 during Rotary District 7350's annual conference. Jessica Crandall, a senior from Clearfield High School, took second place in the contest, and Leah Stiles, a senior who was sponsored jointly by the Rotary Clubs of Martinsburg and Roaring Springs, took third place. The judges included Mary Johnston from the State College Rotary Club; Julia Brulia from the Altoona Sunrise Rotary Club; and Noel Williams from the Williamsport, Maryland Rotary Club.

Contestants wrote and delivered five- to seven-minute speeches on topics of their choosing, incorporating the principles of truth, fairness, goodwill and friendship, and openly debated whether the outcome of the topic presented was beneficial to all concerned. These are four guiding principles for Rotarians in how they conduct business and their lives. Joanna Guy's winning speech focused on the disservice Americans create for their students and economy by giving lip service to foreign language study in an increasingly global society. The other speeches focused respectively on the media's portrayal of women and its influence on self esteem, and the importance of speaking out on political and other issues when we disagree.

All three finalists received cash prizes from Rotary District 7350, to which the local Rotary clubs of State College, Bellefonte, and Pleasant Gap belong. The winner and finalists each intend to pursue college study in the fall of 2008. Prior 4-way speech contests this spring included 22 events that were sponsored by participating Rotary clubs in their clubs' home towns and several regional competitions that narrowed the search for the district finalists.

Rotary District 7350 has 2,000 members from 45 clubs in central Pennsylvania, western Maryland, and the eastern part of West Virginia. The district is part of Rotary International, which has 1.2 million members worldwide who remain dedicated to volunteer community service, promoting high ethical standards in all vocations and furthering international peace. In addition to thousands of volunteer hours, each year Rotary contributes millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and relief around the globe, funds 1,200 international scholarships and provides cross-cultural exchanges for 7,000 young leaders. Through its flagship program PolioPlus, Rotary has contributed more than \$600 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. To learn more about Rotary, visit the State College Rotary website at [www.sc-rotary.org](http://www.sc-rotary.org).

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