

## **ROBERT VAN ALSTINE NAMED COHOES ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR**

COHOES - The Rotary Club of Cohoes named Robert W. Van Alstine their 2016 Rotarian of the year. Bob served as Assistant Governor for District 7190 from 2013-2016, working closely with the District Governors to help Rotary clubs become more effective. Currently Bob is the Leader of the District IT Assistance Group, a position he has held since 2015, where he works with clubs on the use of Rotary information and technology resources. On the club level, Bob served as President of the Cohoes Rotary from 2012-2013, Secretary in 2008-9 and 2010—11, and currently serves on the Cohoes Rotary Board of Directors. As club President Bob led the Cohoes Board of Directors through a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) to determine club goals and subsequently establish a realistic action plan. Under his leadership the Cohoes Rotary published its first Annual Report. Now retired, Bob spent his 30-year professional career working for the Office of the New York State Comptroller: Division of Local Government Services (formerly Municipal Affairs). He served as Division Strategic Planning Coordinator, Director and Assistant Director of MIS, as well as serving as project manager and working in application development. Bob is the author of four books: Steadfast, a biography of Reverend Nicholas Van Alstine (1814-1900); The Dorr and Van Alstine Families in Little Falls; The Dorr Family in the Shaping of America; The Comtois Family in the Shaping of America. Active in the Catholic Church, Bob was commissioned as a Lay Minister by Bishop Edward Scharfenberger in June 2016. He serves as Group Leader for St. Mary's Men's Group and Program Leader for St. Mary's Adult Education Program. Bob and his wife Karen have three children: Scott (wife Julie and son Colin), Katie and Matt. The Rotary Club of Cohoes is a branch of Rotary International, an organization of service clubs located all over the world. It is a secular organization open to all persons regardless of race, color or creed. There are more than 32,000 clubs and over 1.2 million members world-wide. The purpose of the organization is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build good will and peace in the world. The members of the Cohoes Rotary Club consist of local business owners, community organization leaders, city employees and community volunteers. Members enjoy a sense of comradery and pride working together to make the City of Cohoes a better place to live, work, and play. For further information, go to <http://rotaryclubofcohoes.org> and <http://rotary.org>.