



# Bedford Rotary Club NEWS RELEASE

## Jim Gonsman Named Bedford Rotary 2011 Citizen of the Year

Bedford, Pennsylvania, June 10, 2011 .... The Bedford Rotary Club will present Jim Gonsman with the 2011 Citizen of the Year Award at an awards ceremony on Monday, July 11, 2011. He was nominated for this prestigious annual award by fellow Rotarian and Past Citizen of the Year Award recipient Garry Goss.

Jim Gonsman serves as Vice President of Commercial Banking at the Bedford Office of First National Bank. First National Bank supports and encourages giving back to the community, and Jim has answered that call with enthusiasm and energy. Gonsman currently serves as President of the Sunrise Rotary Club of Bedford. He is Treasurer of UPMC-Bedford Memorial Hospital and Vice Chairman of Downtown Bedford, Inc. He is an active Board Member of the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce, the Bedford Area Ambulance, and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Jim is a graduate of Hollidaysburg Area High School and the Centre Business School in State College. He earned his Commercial Lending Certification from Bucknell University, and has been in the banking industry for over twenty years.



Jim and his wife Angie have been married for 20 years, and have two children, Jamie and Ava. They are members of the Bedford Methodist Church. Jim is an avid cyclist, and he spends a great deal of time training and fundraising for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Keystone Country MS-150, a two-day bike loop that runs over 150-miles of scenic back roads of Pennsylvania.

In his nomination letter, Garry Goss wrote, "Jim is a model citizen as exemplified by his many Community Servant Leadership Positions. He pours his time and positive energy into Bedford Sunrise Rotary, Downtown Bedford, Inc., and the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce."

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Upon learning of Jim's selection as a Citizen of the Year, Juli Dull, Downtown Bedford Inc. Manager stated, "Jim is one of the most reliable and active members of DBI. Jim helps in many facets of DBI such as advising the Economic Restructuring committee on small business loans and education that is available for new and existing business in the downtown area, helping at events such as Girls Night Out, Hot Summer Nights, Fall Foliage Festival, Movies in the Square, Antiques on the Square, putting up Christmas lights, and the Family Fun Christmas Event. Jim has also been seen putting up banners, putting up flower pots...whatever is needed! His kindness towards others and generosity towards his community is a rare commodity these days. We feel lucky to have him as a member of DBI and congratulate Jim on this honor!"

The Citizen of the Year award will be presented to Jim Gonsman on Monday, July 11, 2010, at the Bedford Elks. There will be a reception at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Citizen of the Year Chairman Bill Higgins at 814-285-0394, or any other Rotarian. "Without question, Jim has demonstrated the Rotary Motto of 'Service Above Self,' in all that he does and he is well deserving of our Rotary Club's 2011 Citizen of the year award," stated Jeff Wright, President of the Bedford Rotary Club. Also, at the Citizen of the Year Banquet, the Bedford Rotary Club will recognize and honor its 2011 Rotarian of the Year Scott Brown (details will follow in a subsequent News Release).

The Bedford Rotary Club encourages all Bedford County citizens to join us in recognizing both Jim Gonsman as the 2011 Citizen of the Year and Scott Brown as the 2011 Rotarian of the Year.