



District 7545 Newsletter

Vol 10, April 2023

**This month's Rotary theme:
Environment**



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

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McPuff

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S CORNER

It's District Conference month and I hope by now you've taken the time to register for this annual gathering of Rotarians from throughout our district. Time is running out if you haven't and we have a great event planned.

This is our first real opportunity to come together as a district without the presence of significant COVID restrictions. Aside from a great opportunity to enjoy meeting and sharing ideas with fellow Rotarians from throughout our district, the conference offers something for everyone including golf, food packing, bourbon tasting, live entertainment, silent auction, a tremendous line-up of speakers, and great meals all in the environment of one of West Virginia's premiere State Park Resorts.



Carol and DG Dan McCarthy

This month is Environment Month as we focus on Rotary's newest Area of Focus. There's certainly no shortage of things we could discuss in this area, both globally and locally. Whether your focus is on reclamation, renewable energy, water conservation, trail maintenance or perhaps just sprucing things up for spring, this is a great month to feature an environment-related program at your club meeting or, better yet, a service project that gets your membership outdoors for spring. Whatever your focus, make the environment a feature of this month's program in your club.



Each month I touch on the subject of membership. This month, as DMC Sean points out, we are back in positive territory for the year, having recovered from the losses experienced during the holiday period in December. That said, we have a ways to go to reach our goal of "consistent moderate growth" within our district. Our success in doing so will depend on our collective efforts during the remainder of this Rotary year.

There's still time to make a difference. The Membership Summit held in February provided the tools to do so. Let's all make an effort to share this tremendous organization with others in our communities!

Finally, allow me to return to the subject of the District Conference. The portal is still open to register. The event is April 29-30 at Stonewall Resort. Here's the direct link to register:
<https://dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77650480>.

And if you're a golfer, you'll want to register for that as well at:
<https://dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77649892>. I look forward to seeing you all at Stonewall Resort!

Yours in Rotary Service,

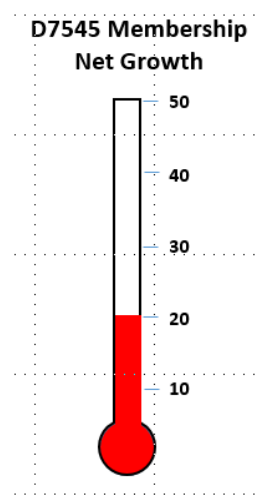
Dan

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Last month I wrote to you fresh off our Membership Summit in great hope that everyone who attended the event found it to be beneficial. With a month having now passed since then, it would certainly appear that it was . . . I'm happy to report that we have had membership growth every week since, and now have welcomed into our District's Clubs a net gain of 42 members in the month of March!! Even better, we still have almost three full months to continue our efforts and gain even more before the end of this Rotary year on June 30.



DMC/PDG Sean Sawyer



So, how should you use that time most wisely, and avoid being lulled into a slumber that risks losing members between now and then?

- Have you called the past members of your Club and told them about all of the exciting things new to Rotary since they left?
- Have you scheduled a 'Discovery Rotary' event to show them and prospective members in your community what those new things are?
- Have you taken a look at the other Intentional Strategies in the Member Care Manual on the District website?
- Have you encouraged your members to invite guests to the upcoming District Conference?

In short, all of the tools are available to us. And if you don't want to take my word for it, check out this link --

> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ_8hey1N8 and start learning of all of the benefits the new Membership Success Center provides as part of our Zone 33/34's Membership Action Plan!! It is VERY easily accessed through the MAP icon on DACdb !!

To close, it's important that we ALL do our part, and not unnecessarily rely on the efforts of only a fraction of our Clubs and their efforts. The District's 'Club Assist Team' is here and ready to help you in any way, so just reach out to me, so that together, we either keep up the good work, or get to stepping on the gas pedal in your Club today!!

Sean



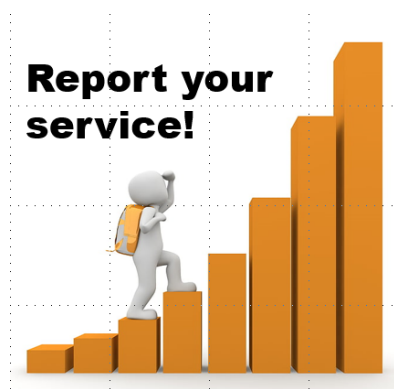
COMMUNITY SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

REPORT YOUR SERVICE HOURS! Reports are essential tools in business. They play a crucial role in the startup, ongoing, growth, expansion, and even survival stages of a company. Through business reports, companies are able to document their progress over time. Reports also help build an audit trail of the past. These are important when going to financial institutions or when seeking investors. In the same way, club service reporting is the way in which Rotary International can pinpoint the work being achieved by Rotary clubs. This information is very important when trying to attract outside donors to the work of The Rotary Foundation.



**Community Service Chair
PP Jane Stout**

All of the clubs in our district are working very hard at serving our communities. The problem is that RI knows very little about our efforts because most clubs are not reporting it. Club leaders are encouraged



to keep track of the hours that members spend preparing for and participating in service activities of any kind. Club leaders are working hard at their jobs already, but any member who is willing can help with this. Officers who are allowed to report service activities in Rotary Club Central are Club President, Club Secretary, Club Executive Secretary, Club Foundation Chair, Club Public Image Chair, Club Treasurer, and Club Service Projects Chair. Several clubs have a Community Service Chair as an officer, but that person cannot do the reporting unless they are listed as the "Club Service Projects Chair". (These are listed separately in DACdb.) If you are willing to help your club increase its visibility at RI, please talk with your club leadership to

see how you can help with this important task. I am happy to provide simple training to anyone who wishes to make sure that their club's activities are reported. I can be reached at jane.bg.stout@gmail.com or Cell: (804)356-5432.

Jane

PUBLIC IMAGE TIPS

April brings the opportunity to branch out and post about some different topics on your club social media sites. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) As you all know, our District Conference is at the end of this month. Now is the time to share, like and comment on the Rotary District 7545 Facebook page's posts regarding the conference (and be sure to check out the social media contest that we have going on for your chance to win a free overnight stay at Stonewall Resort)!
- 2) The Rotary theme for this month is the environment. This is a perfect time to post for Earth Day, which is April 22nd. Protecting the environment is actually Rotary's newest Area of Focus and you can find more ideas for inspiration here: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/protecting-environment>.
- 3) National Volunteer Week is April 16-22. Take this time to recognize all of your Rotary volunteers!
- 4) World Immunization Week kicks off April 24th. This would be a great week to post about your Polio efforts. We know that a lot of our clubs focus our polio efforts during the month of October, but now would be a great time to post some flashback posts about your prior polio events, etc.
- 5) National Library Week is April 23-29. Take this week to recognize (and be sure to tag) your local library and everything they do for your community!
- 6) National Small Business Week starts on April 30th. Many of our Rotarians own small businesses – take some time to acknowledge those members on social media sites.
- 7) April is both Autism Awareness and Parkinson Awareness Month. If your club has any dealings with those two issues, you can share posts accordingly. Even if your club doesn't specifically focus on these issues, you can recognize other organizations in your community and their efforts in those regards.



DPIC Amanda Ream

Our friends over at Rotary Zone 34 have some helpful webinars that are available online relating to a variety of pertinent public image topics (including Canva hacks, creating cool content, how to use Facebook manager for your benefit, and many more). You can check out those free videos here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/z34webinars>. Also if you are a Public Image Chair interested in getting involved in the District Public Image Committee, please contact our District Public Image Chair Amanda Ream, executivedirector@SouthCharlestonChamber.org. Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19th at 4:00pm via Zoom.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Amanda



FOUNDATION FEATURE

As we enter the final quarter of this Rotary Year, it's a good time to take stock of your support of the Rotary Foundation.

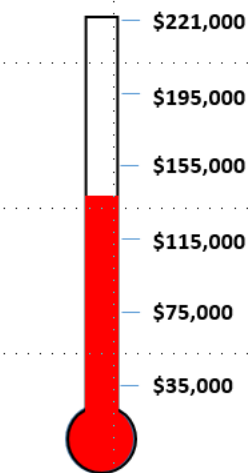
Remember, your contributions to the Foundation determine the District grant funding we receive. This year's contributions will determine our District Grant funding during the 2026-27 Rotary Year.

As you can see from the thermometer below, we are currently at just over half of this year's goal. There's still time for us to make it!



DRFC/PDG Terry Mathias

D7545 Total Foundation Giving



I encourage all clubs to have a presentation on the Foundation to emphasize the importance of member contributions during this last quarter. Let me know if the Foundation Team can help with that.

Club Presidents and Foundation Chairs can check out their club's Foundation giving status by going to MyRotary, hovering over The Rotary Foundation tab and selecting Foundation Reports. From there, scroll down to Contributions & Recognition and select View Reports under Club Giving. Then select Club Fundraising Analysis.

For an individual Rotarian to view their own Foundation giving, start the same way by hovering over The Rotary Foundation tab and selecting Foundation Reports. At the top of the page you'll see Individual Reports with Contributions & Recognition immediately under it. Just click on View Report under Donor History Report to get a personalized summary of your Foundation giving.

For more information, please feel free to reach out to me at tmathias@earthlink.net or 304-741-0045.

With thanks for all those who enable the work of our Foundation to continue through their contributions,

Terry

FUN FACTS OF THE MONTH

This month's Fun facts come from southern district of Rotary (https://www.southerndistricts-rotary.com/images/rotary_information/7_SOME%20ROTARY%20FIRSTS%20AND%20FACTS.pdf)

- The first Rotary club meeting was in Chicago, Illinois, on February 23, 1905
- The first regular luncheon meetings were in Oakland, California, chartered in 1909
- The first Rotary convention was in Chicago in 1910

- The Rotary emblem was printed on a commemorative stamp for the first time in 1931
- The first Rotary club banner to orbit the moon was carried by astronaut Frank Borman, a member of the Houston Space Center Rotary Club
- The first Rotary International convention held outside the United States was in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1921
- Rotary first established the Paul Harris Fellow recognition in 1957 for contributors of US \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation
- The first Rotaract Club was formed in Charlotte, North Carolina
- The first women joined Rotary in 1987
- In 1911 Paul Harris gave a budget of \$25.44 to mimeograph and mail a new publication, The National Rotarian, to all 2,000 Rotarians in the 23 clubs nationwide (the first Rotary Magazine)
- The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), began in 1959 when Rotarians from Queensland, Australia, organized a weeklong conference for outstanding young people (RYLA was officially adopted as a Rotary youth program in 1971)
- The first youth exchange was when the Rotary Club of Copenhagen (Denmark) arranged to host several American boys in 1921

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

ELKINS GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT (GSFMM) UPDATE

The Elkins GSFMM Project is underway. The site has been selected in Elkins with the strong support of the Elkins community. The Elkins GSFMM will be located in the Elkins Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Seneca Trail and Railroad Avenue adjacent to an existing Veterans Memorial.

The Committee to oversee the project has been established. Its members include:

- DG J. Dan McCarthy
- DGE Jordan Feathers
- DGN Jeff Disibbio
- Elkins Rotary Club President Kristie Vandevander
- Milton Rotary Club representative and longtime friend of Woody Williams, James Peterson
- Gold Star Family Member and American Legion District 9 Commander SSgt Donnie Lambert, also from Elkins



Design work is underway for the placement of the monument on the site as well as for the surrounding plaza area. A website has been established and donations to support the project are now being accepted through the project's website at <https://woodywilliams.org/monuments/elkins-wv.html>.



Updates on project progress will be posted in future Newsletter editions.

Please consider becoming a contributor to the Elkins Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in honor of fellow D7545 Rotarian Woody Williams..

SIX ROTARY CLUBS JOIN FORCES TO BUILD BEDS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

After hearing a Club presentation by Harrison County Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) Chapter President Dave Lang, the Weston Rotary Club swung into action to organize a bed building event in Bridgeport.

SHP is a volunteer organization dedicated to building, assembling and delivering bunk beds to children



and families in need. With 260 chapters in 44 states in the U.S. (they recently expanded operations into Canada as well), SHP responds to help families nationwide. Their mantra: **No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!**[®]



Members of the Weston, Tuckey County, Clarksburg, Fairmont, Beckley and Kingwood Rotary Clubs joined forces to build beds in early March. These Rotarians and



friends spent an afternoon, sanding, assembling and treating 25 bed frames that will be assembled in the homes of West Virginia families in need.

Are there children in your communities that are sleeping on the floor? Check out the SHP website at: <https://info.shpbs.org/>

BECKLEY ROTARY CLUB TURNS IMAGINATION LIBRARY CONTRIBUTION INTO A SUSTAINABLE PROJECT

What started as a one year partnership project with the Raleigh General Hospital's Labor & Delivery Department has morphed into an annual project to improve childhood literacy in the Raleigh County Area.

After learning that less than 45% of eligible children in Raleigh County are enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (featured in our September Newsletter), the Rotary Club of Beckley embarked on a project entitled *For the Love of Reading*.



Leveraging a \$3,000 District Grant and the support of partners Delta Kappa Gamma and the Labor and Delivery Department at Raleigh General Hospital, the Club organized a service project to raise awareness on enrolling in the Imagination Library. The service project's goal was to create a congratulatory gift for babies born in the hospital to include a note of congratulations to the parents and an enrollment form for the Imagination Library.

Club members were challenged to sponsor a child with a donation of at least \$25 dollars, to increase enrollment in the program. In addition to monetary donations, the club collected new or gently loved age-appropriate books.

A total of over 300 books and \$6,600 (\$3,000 of which was from the District grant), was donated. The monetary donations will go to Marshall University's June Harless Center to support the Imagination Library, which oversees the statewide programming for West Virginia.

MOUNDSVILLE, WHEELING and NEW MARTINSVILLE CLUBS PACK 30,000 MEALS

Twenty-six Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Moundsville, New Martinsville, Wheeling and Beckley joined forces with 51 non-Rotarian supporters to pack 30,000 meals last month at the St. Jude's Church Hall in Glen Dale, WV. Rotarian family members, Scouts from Troop 82 in Glen Dale and basketball players from the Linsly School in Wheeling were among the non-Rotarians helping to pack meals.

Each meal packed can serve up to six people, so that equates to up to 180,000 people fed. Now that's an impactful service project!



BARBOURSVILLE ROTARY CLUB WORKS THREE PROJECTS SIMULTANEOUSLY

The March 22nd meeting of the Rotary Club of Barboursville saw their members working on three service projects simultaneously:

- Members labeled dictionaries for their annual dictionary distribution to 3rd graders in Eastern Cabell County. The dictionaries will be delivered to each school by club Rotarians who speak to the children about Rotary and introduce them to their new dictionary.
- Twenty Easter Baskets were put together for the students at Barboursville School.
- 500 eggs were stuffed for the upcoming Eggciting Egg Hunt.

No that's service above self!



YOU CAN OWN A PIECE OF ROTARY HISTORY

It's not too late to bid on the signed Rotary International President Jennifer Jones theme print. The on-line auction will remain open until the District Conference when the winning bidder will be announced. All proceeds benefit Rotary's Polio Plus Campaign and the winner bidder gets full credit for their donation in terms of Paul Harris points.

What's unique about the print being auctioned in our district is that it was hand signed by President Jennifer (the first woman Rotary International President in Rotary's 118 year history) and comes with a letter of authenticity also hand signed by the artist, Darren Jones, President Jennifer's brother.

You can still bid for this unique piece of Rotary history at go.charityauctionstoday.com/bid/1608.



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS to the following District 7545 Clubs that grew their membership during the month of March!

Barboursville	Beckley	Bluefield	Bridgeport
Canyon Rim	Charleston Vandalia	Elkins	Fairmont
Harrison County	Madison	Marlinton	Morgantown
Mountain State e-Club	Peterstown	Princeton	St. Albans
South Fairmont	Weston	Wheeling	

This list is growing. If your club isn't on it, ask "Why not?" What's your plan to grow? Every Rotarian can contribute. Are you? When was the last time you invited a potential Rotarian to your club?



SHOUT OUT!!

HINT: And if you think your club should have been on this list and isn't, have your club Secretary run RI Compare in DACdb to ensure what you've entered in DACdb has been communicated to Rotary International.



EDUCATION ALLIANCE CEO ADDRESSES LEWISBURG ROTARY CLUB

The Lewisburg Rotary Club hosted Dr. Amelia Courts, Chief Executive Officer of The Education Alliance during a March meeting.

The Education Alliance is an independent, nonprofit organization that advocates for public education in the State of West Virginia.

In partnership with businesses throughout West Virginia, the Education Alliance seeks to mentor and empower students for success in their future careers. Through the work of the Caperton Center, The Education Alliance connects public schools with businesses to create partnerships for education access and equity.

The Education Alliance also connects students to post-secondary education opportunities through virtual college visits and other programs.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE NEWS

If you have not yet registered for the District Conference, you are literally down to the wire. Rooms are still available until noon on April 7th, but you need to act now. Here's the direct link to the registration page: <https://dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77650480>.

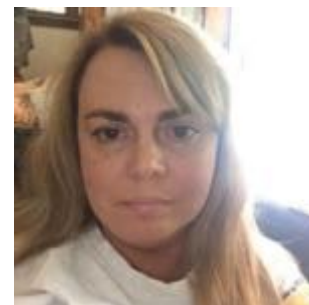
Still debating whether to attend? Our agenda is packed with something for everyone. If you have not seen it, I'm including it below so you can decide for yourself.

This is this first serious opportunity for us to join together in a post-COVID environment. Come as individuals or form a group with others in your club and come as a contingent.

Whether you're coming to play golf, to learn, to fellowship with Rotarians from around our district, to find out which clubs will be recognized this year, to hear from inspiring speakers, to pack meals for fellow West Virginians who are suffering from food insecurity, or for all of these, now is the time to ensure you're registered to attend.

I look forward to seeing you all there!

Kerry



Kerry Gnik
District Conference Chair



AGENDA

APRIL 28 - 30, 2023



FRIDAY | 04.28.23

ATTIRE FOR FRIDAY IS ROTARY CASUAL

- 8:00AM | GOLF SCRAMBLE REGISTRATION**
STONEWALL PRO SHOP
- 9:00AM | TEE OFF**
- 2:00PM | CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**
CLOSES AT 5:00PM
STONEWALL RESORT MAIN LOBBY
- 4:00PM | COLLEGE OF GOVERNORS**
CONCLUDES AT 5:00PM
LIBRARY & OAK BOARD ROOM
CASH BAR & LIGHT hors d'oeuvres
DG, DG CHAIN, PDGS
- 5:00PM | BOURBON TASTING EVENT**
CONCLUDES AT 6:00PM
BIRCH ROOM
PRIVATE EVENT
ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- 6:00PM | BREWS, BLUES & BBQ**
STONEWALL BALLROOM
BUFFET, CASH BAR, LIVE MUSIC, SILENT AUCTION
GAMES! GAMES! GAMES!

SATURDAY | 04.29.23

ATTIRE FOR SATURDAY, DAYTIME EVENTS, IS ROTARY CASUAL
EVENING EVENTS ARE BUSINESS ATTIRE
MORNING REFRESHMENTS SERVED 8AM - 11AM

- 7:00AM | BREAKFAST**
STILLWATERS RESTAURANT
- 7:00AM | CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**
CLOSES AT 8:30AM
STONEWALL BALLROOM FOYER
- 8:30AM | GENERAL SESSION BEGINS**
STONEWALL BALLROOM FOYER
PRESENTATION OF COLORS & NATIONAL ANTHEM
LEWIS COUNTY JROTC AND CHOIR
PARADE OF FLAGS/INTRODUCTION OF
DG CHAIN AND PDGS
WELCOME - DG DAN MCCARTHY
- 9:30AM | JEREMY HURST**
2022-2024 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
FOR ZONES 33/34
SCAN QR CODE TO SEE BIO



- 10:00AM | BREAK**
STONEWALL BALLROOM FOYER
- 10:15AM | DISTRICT REPORT**
DG DAN MCCARTHY
- 10:45AM | DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT**
PDG TERRY MATHIAS
- 11:15AM | BERNIE RIEDEL**
ZONE 33 END POLIO NOW COORDINATOR
SCAN QR CODE TO SEE BIO



- 11:45AM | SARAH CULBERSON**
PRINCESS OF SIERRA LEONE
HUMANITARIAN, EDUCATOR, AUTHOR OF
'A PRINCESS FOUND'
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DIVERSITY, EQUITY &
INCLUSION
SCAN QR CODE TO SEE BIO



- 12:15PM | AGENDA REVIEW / DISMISS FOR LUNCH**
- 12:20PM | LUNCH**
STILLWATERS RESTAURANT
- 1:00PM | BOOK SIGNING**
PRINCESS SARAH WILL BE SIGNING COPIES
OF HER BOOK 'A PRINCESS FOUND'
STILLWATERS RESTAURANT
- 1:30PM | GENERAL SESSION RESUMES**
STONEWALL BALLROOM
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SILENT AUCTION WINNERS
REVIEW OF SERVICE PROJECT
REVIEW OF AGENDA



AGENDA

APRIL 28 - 30, 2023



SATURDAY CONT'D | 04.29.23

2:15PM | FOOD PACKING SERVICE PROJECT
TERRACE FOYER

4:30PM | DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING
MAPLE ROOM
CONCLUDES AT 5:50PM
DG DAN MCCARTHY AND CLUB PRESIDENTS

5:00PM | SOCIAL HOUR
STONEWALL BALLROOM

6:00PM | DINNER
STONEWALL BALLROOM

7:30PM | STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT NOMINEE
ROTARY CLUB OF MCMURRAY, PA
DISTRICT 7505
SCAN QR CODE TO SEE BIO



8:00PM | RECOGNITION AND AWARDS
DG DAN MCCARTHY
PDG SHARI TACKETT MESSINGER

8:45PM | CLOSING REMARKS
DG DAN MCCARTHY

9:30PM | S'MORES AT THE FIREPIT
FIREPIT OUTSIDE TJ MUSKIES LOUNGE
S'MORES, CASH BAR

SUNDAY | 04.30.23

ATTIRE FOR SUNDAY IS ROTARY CASUAL

7:00AM | BREAKFAST
STILLWATERS RESTAURANT

8:00AM | INTERFAITH SERVICE
STONEWALL BALLROOM

8:30AM | GENERAL SESSION CLOSING
STEPHANIE URCHICK
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT NOMINEE

DAN MCCARTHY
DISTRICT 7545 GOVERNOR

IN MEMORIAM

THANK YOU REFRESHMENT BREAK SPONSOR!



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304.966.2900

SUPPORT THE CHILDREN OF SIERRA LEONE

As of March 31st, the following clubs have contributed to our project to help the families and children of Sierra Leone: **Beckley, Charleston, Fairmont, Grafton, Kingwood, Marlinton, Mountain State e-Club, and Princeton.**

Want to get your club on the list? As little as a \$10 donation to purchase one solar lamp will do it.

One hundred percent of whatever we collect will be provided to *Sierra Leone Rising* for this purpose. All Rotarians should consider making a donation of some amount. Our goal is to receive contributions from all our clubs in whatever amount they choose.

Donations from individual Rotarians and Rotary Clubs are to be made out to the Beckley Rotary Club Charities Fund (an IRS 501c3) which will administer the collection of funds. Checks should be mailed to Rotary International District 7545, P.O., Box 604, Fayetteville WV 25840. Please ensure your name and Rotary Club is included on the check as well as a memo indicating it is for the Sierra Leone campaign.

Time is running out to get your club on the list. Let's make a difference in the lives of these children and families!



DISTRICT YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE

RYLA RYLA RYLA!!

Don't forget to get your applications in for your 9th and 10th grade students to attend the upcoming Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference. The applications are due by April 17th and are available via your Rotary club president or on the District 7545 website. We will have a lot of good training along with a special presentation from a former RYLA attendee who is going to bring some drones to fly!

One of the special highlights of RYLA is a meal packaging event with Stop Hunger Now. We will package 10,000 meals again this year and we are looking for sponsors to help us fund the \$4,000 price tag for the meals. Any individual, club or business that contributes will be recognized in the materials given to all the attendees. If you have any questions, Please contact me @ dmshreve12@gmail.com or 304-669-9666.



PDG Dennis Shreve
Youth Services Chair

Rotary Youth Exchange Needs You!

We have four Rotary Youth Exchange students (2 boys and 2 girls) coming to our district from various countries around the world this fall to spend a year in Wonderful West Virginia. We need sponsor clubs and host families! This is not a year in the life of one of these student, it is a lifetime in a year! Won't you open your home and heart to one of these students? You won't regret it! Contact me or JR Wolfe if you are interested. Dmsrheve12@gmail.com 304-669-9666

Dennis

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OUR DISTRICT

HAWAIIAN CLUB TOSSES MUD BALLS TO CLEAN UP CANAL

This story comes to us compliments of Rotary magazine:

“Members of the Rotary Club of the Kaka’ako Eco Rotary Club tossed 5,000 mud balls filled with beneficial organisms into the Ala Wai Canal in Waikiki as part of a rehabilitation effort to make the waterway fishable and swimmable. The healthy bacteria in the genki balls—made with soil, molasses, rice bran, and water—digest and oxygenate sludge at the bottom of the canal (genki means healthy in Japanese).



In March 2022, more than 200 volunteers, including club members and friends, made the balls, advised by the Genki Ala Wai Project. Three weeks later, they threw the fermented genki balls into the waterway. Donors paid \$5 per ball to defray some of the cost.”

Now that’s an innovative service project!

CZECH REPUBLIC ROTARACT CLUB HOSTS BOARD GAME FESTIVAL

Amid the metaverse and other digital kingdoms, all things analog still have an appeal to younger generations, asserts the Rotaract Club of Most in the Czech Republic. The club played host to its third annual board games festival, which attracted more than 250 competitors over two days in October.



“Board games in the Czech Republic are on a big rise since the beginning of the pandemic, and such an event made sense to us,” says Petr Machovec, a past club president. “The secondary aspect of this was to engage new people in our club activities.” For a \$3 entry fee, players could hear local professionals discuss developments in the games industry and try more than 150 games, many curated by club members and unique to the country. The most skilled won tournament prizes.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION PLANNING

By this time you should all be aware of the upcoming Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, 27-31 May. There is still time to register if you are interested. So far we have 13 district Rotarians registered to attend. Why participate in a Rotary International Convention? Here's five good reasons:

1. Meet the most inspiring people in the world.

Typically, Rotary members from more than 130 countries meet at the convention every year. This is your unique opportunity to connect with old friends, make new ones, and share stories about your club's current and future projects.

2. Strengthen your club and your passion for Rotary.

The general sessions and breakout sessions offer countless ways to help you get the most from your Rotary membership and make your club stronger. In the House of Friendship, you'll find new ideas, learn best practices, and share project successes — it's where the Rotary world comes together!

3. Learn of the work being accomplished by The Rotary Foundation. The Foundation is the financial arm through which Rotary supports both its districts as well as Rotary's international efforts to do good around the globe. Each convention offers unique insights into the work of the Foundation and how our contributions are impacting the world.

4. Explore a new area of the world. Every Rotary International Convention provides opportunities to explore a unique aspect of our global community. Here's some highlights of what this year's attendees at the 2023 International Convention in Melbourne can experience:

- The "cultural and sporting capital" of Australia, Melbourne hosts numerous international festivals, as well as the most prestigious sporting events in the country.
 - Melbourne's labyrinth of laneways treats visitors to awe-inspiring street art, quirky bars, and hidden cafes where baristas brew the best cups of coffee you've ever tasted.
 - A multicultural metropolis, Melbourne is home to people from approximately 200 countries, with 260 languages spoken and 135 religious faiths represented.
 - From fusion restaurants, fine dining and food truck precincts, to ice creameries and late night souvlaki Melbourne is a place where people love to eat and as a multicultural melting pot Melbourne's food scene is diverse, to say the least.
 - Bargains and hidden treasures can be found in the markets and shops of Melbourne, particularly now with the exchange rate so favorable to those with U.S. currency.
5. Enjoy special tours and events offered by the Host Organization Committee

Learn more and register for this year's convention at: <https://convention.rotary.org/en/melbourne>

Want to get ahead of the game for upcoming Rotary International Conventions? Mark your calendars now for these future conventions:

- 25-29 May 2024, Singapore
- 21-25 June 2025, Calgary, Canada



- 13-17 June 2026, Taipei, Taiwan
- 5-9 June 2027, Honolulu, HI

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

District Golf Scramble , Stonewall Resort	Apr 28, 2023
District Conference , Stonewall Resort	Apr 28-30, 2023
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) , Jackson's Mill	May 12-14, 2023
Foundation Summit , Kanawha County Public Library	Jun 10, 2023
District Leadership Installation , Flatwoods	Jun 23, 2023
District Training Assembly , Flatwoods	Jun 24, 2023
District Foundation Recognition Dinner , Bridgeport	Nov 3, 2023



Mark your calendars!

2022-23 LEADERSHIP

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

RI President
[Jennifer E. Jones](#)
RI Board Chair
[Peter R. Kyle](#)
TRF Trustees Chair
[John F. Germ](#)
RI Zone 33/34 Director
[Jeremy Hurst](#)
General Secretary/CEO
[John Hewko](#)

DISTRICT OFFICERS

District Governor
[J. Dan McCarthy](#) | 304-719-5206
District Governor-elect
[Jordan Feathers](#) | 304-319-2694
District Governor-nominee
[Jeff Disibbio](#) | 304-325-2815
District Governor-nominee designate
[Rick Macak](#) | 954-770-0990
Immediate Past District Governor
["Coop" Cooper](#) | 304-642-2667
District Treasurer
[Ed Westfall](#) | 304-203-4007
District Secretary
[Carol McCarthy](#) | 703-587-4453

District Membership
[PDG Sean Sawyer](#) | 304-366-2900
District Foundation
[PDG Terry Mathias](#) | 304-741-0045
District Public Image
[Amanda Ream](#) | 304-745-0051
District Communications
[Deb Halsey-Hunter](#) | 304-920-2131
District Community Service
[PP Jane Stout](#) | 804-356-5432
District Youth Services
[PDG Dennis Shreve](#) | 304-669-9666
District Conference Chair
[Kerry Gnik](#) | 304-791-4480
District International Service
[Bonnie Branciaroli](#) | 304-614-3244

UPCOMING DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISITS

Club	Date/Time	Location
South Charleston	4/17/2023 12:00 pm	Fairfield Inn & Suites, 402 2 nd Ave., South Charleston

Club Presidents: Contact District Secretary Carol McCarthy at designsbycarol@gmail.com for information or to make adjustments

HELPFUL LINKS

District 7545 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict7545/>

Zone 33/34 Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rotaryinternationalzones33.34/>

District 7545 website: <https://www.rotarydistrict7545.org/>

Zone 33/34 website: <https://www.rizones33-34.org/>

Deadline for May Newsletter is April 30th

Send items to Newsletter editor Donna M. Tennant, DT2078@aol.com
Articles received after this deadline will be used the following month