



District 7545 Newsletter

Vol 11, May 2023

**This month's Rotary theme:
Youth Service**



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

Table of Contents

District Governor's Corner

Membership Minute

Community Service Spotlight

Public Image tips

Foundation Feature

Fun facts of the Month

News from Around the District

News from Outside the District

Upcoming District Events

2022-23 Rotary Leadership

Helpful Links



McPuff

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S CORNER

As I write this, the district conference is fresh in my mind. What a wonderful gathering of Rotarians at a superb event coordinated by Conference Chair Kerry Gnik and her team. This edition of the Newsletter features some photos from the event so you get a flavor for the informative and fun time we had.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's conference scheduled for May 31 through June 2, 2024 at Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place. President-elect Jordan has already begun planning this next great gathering of our district.



Carol and DG Dan McCarthy

May is Youth Service Month in Rotary. Youth service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through programs such as Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Rotary Youth Exchange, and New Generations Service Exchange. This month, learn more about how you can support young leaders:

- Complete the online learning plan *Service-Learning for Advisers* in the Rotary Learning Center to find out how to combine community service with learning objectives that help young people develop leadership skills.
- Watch Interact Award Winners at <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/interact-clubs/details>
- Subscribe to the *Young Leaders in Action* newsletter for the latest about Rotary's youth and young adult programs at <https://my.rotary.org/en/news-media/newsletters>
- Read what young leaders say about what service means to them on the Service in Action blog at <https://rotaryserviceblog.org/category/service-activities-and-resources/rotary-action-groups/>



By the time you read this Newsletter edition, we will be into our second to last month of this Rotary year. This is the time to take stock of your progress on your personal and club Rotary goals, just as we did at the District Conference. Have you reached your membership goals? Have you reached your planned giving level in support of The Rotary Foundation? Has your club reported its service hours?

There's still time to make a difference. Let's all make an effort to share this tremendous organization with others in our communities!

Yours in Rotary Service,

Dan

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

As a district, our membership continues to grow and that's good news. But, while the thermometer progress looks encouraging, we know that as clubs scrub their membership records in June we are likely to experience a net loss that month. That's why it's so important to keep the foot on the gas pedal of membership growth while there's still time to make a difference this Rotary year.

The Membership Summit held last February provided clubs detailed insight into their membership history as well as identified "the problem to solve" in their specific case. Now is a good time to look back at your notes from that session and ensure you are acting on the strategies you identified to help your club grow.

Not able to attend the Membership Summit? Here's a few strategies to consider:

- Host a Discover Rotary session to invite potential new members to learn more about Rotary
- Designate a club meeting in May for club members to bring a friend to your Rotary meeting
- Build a list of prospective members in your community and assign club members to extend personal invitations to join an upcoming club meeting
- Start a contest to encourage members to bring in new member candidates and establish an incentive appropriate to your club
- Make calls to former members of your club and invite them back to Rotary
- Check out the strategies recommended for your club in the Membership Success Center under the MAP icon on DACdb
- Be sure all your new members are recorded on your club roles, including those you've identified as new Impact or Companion Club members
- Run the Club Compare feature in DACdb to ensure your club's records are in sync between DACdb and Rotary International.

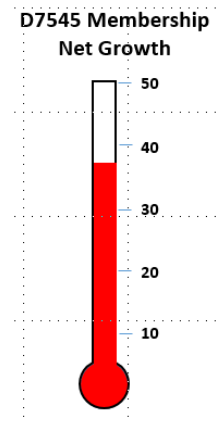
There is still time to make a difference, so let's focus our efforts on sharing Rotary with others these last two months of this Rotary year. Let's all make a commitment to do just that. The District's 'Club Assist Team' is here and ready to help you in any way. All it takes is an email to sawyer.higinbotham@gmail.com.

Together, we can grow Rotary in District 7545!!

Sean



DMC/PDG Sean Sawyer





COMMUNITY SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

MAKING AN IMPACT! The District 7545 Conference food packing event was a great success. Forty-eight Rotarians were organized into teams of twelve and immediately became four efficient assembly lines of food packing power. We packed 10,440 meals for hungry West Virginians in an hour and twenty minutes.



Many Rotarians are familiar with Rise Against Hunger events. Heaven Sent Ministries events are similar, and their international food recipe is the same. However, district Rotarians wanted to help hungry West Virginians at this event, and Heaven Sent has two domestic recipes which are



**Community Service Chair
PP Jane Stout**

popular in area food banks and pantries.

Rotarians packed the Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal Recipe. When prepared, each bag will provide up to six meals for a hungry family.

Most of the Rotarians that participated took one or more boxes of two hundred sixteen meals home to their local food pantry. I think that is called “making an impact!”

Congratulations to “Team Tangerine” for finishing their packing first. I am sure it was having RIPN Stephanie Urchick on the team that made the difference!

For more information about hosting a food packing event through Heaven Sent Ministries (with offices in Princeton, WV) or Rise Against Hunger, please contact me at jane.bg.stout@gmail.com or (804)356-5432.



Jane

PUBLIC IMAGE TIPS

Want to kick-start your club's social media presence? Rotary's social and digital media specialists offer some tips in the January edition of Rotary Magazine. Here are the highlights (see the magazine article on page 54 for additional ideas):

1. Pick your platform (start with one)
2. Assign roles (identify a photographer and content manager)
3. Be consistent (post regularly)
4. Take photos that tell a story (images that show action)
5. Lead with impact and encourage engagement (make social media part of your event planning)
6. Celebrate partnership and participation (tag participants and avoid Rotary jargon)
7. Find inspiration (look at the social media posts of others for inspiration)
8. Use the Brand Center (your one-stop shop for creative assets and guidelines)



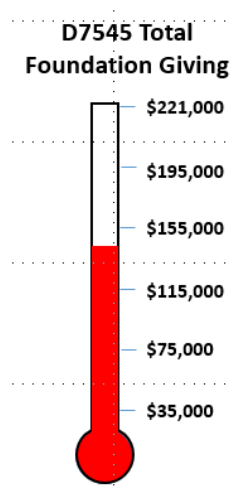
DPIC Amanda Ream

I'll add a ninth point: Have fun with it! If it's fun and engaging for you, it will likely be for your readers as well.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Amanda

FOUNDATION FEATURE



You are invited to attend our next informational session about how you can achieve your philanthropic goals using creative giving strategies through the Rotary Foundation! Now is the time to Imagine Your Rotary Legacy!


This month's session will focus on "What is a Bequest?". Laurie Menzel, Major Gift Officer with the Rotary Foundation, will join us on **Monday, May 8th at 5:00pm on Zoom** to answer your questions!


Here is the link for the Zoom meeting: <https://rotary-org.zoom.us/j/5141165678>



DRFC/PDG Terry Mathias



IMAGINE YOUR ROTARY LEGACY! Rotary  District 7545


 **IMAGINE ROTARY**

Legacy Learning
With Laurie Menzel
Major Gifts Officer, The Rotary Foundation

Join us and learn how you can easily reach your philanthropic goals using creative giving strategies through The Rotary Foundation.

May 8th 5:00pm
What is a Bequest?

Zoom Information at 5PM:
<https://rotary-org.zoom.us/j/5141165678>
Meeting ID: 514 116 5678
One tap mobile
+16469313860,,5141165678# US



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)

- District 9100 which comprises 14 West African Countries is recognized as the largest geographical District in the Rotary world. It was created in 1985 and uses three official languages - English, French, and Portuguese.
- The Rotary Club of Papeete, Tahiti, which is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is the club that is most remote from any other.
- The southernmost Rotary meeting is that of the Rotary Club of Base Marambio-Antartida in Antarctica. In the area you can also visit the Rotary Club of Base Antarctica Esperanza. Both are Spanish speaking clubs that meet Wednesday evenings

- To visit the northernmost club you must travel above the Arctic Circle to the Rotary Club of Barrow, Alaska, U.S.A.
- If you attend the El Aguilar club in Argentina, you are meeting with the highest club in the world at 16,000 feet (4,880 meters) above sea level.
- The lowest club meets at 40 feet (12.2 meters) below sea level at El Centro, California, USA.
- There are 69 Rotary clubs with the word “Tokyo” in their club names.
- It is said that there is a Rotary meeting being held someplace in the world every hour of every day. If you attended one meeting per day, it would take nearly 80 years to visit all of the more than 34,500 Rotary clubs in the world, and by that time, no doubt, there would be thousands more new clubs to attend

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

DISTRICT CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Over 140 Rotarians and guests attended this year’s District 7545 Conference at Stonewall Resort. If you missed it, you missed a great event including the opportunity to meet Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick who will lead Rotary during the 2024-2025 Rotary Year.

Here’s a brief summary with accompanying photos:



Past Princeton President Craig Stout joins PDGs Ranjit Magunder, Harry Faulk and John Powell to take this year’s annual golf trophy



The conference opens with the Lewis County High JROTC presenting the colors followed by the National Anthem performed by the Lewis County Choir

A lively singalong and outdoor games followed dinner during the Blues, Brews and BBQ -- both a silent auction and ring toss to benefit polio plus were also conducted during the evening



Special guest Princess Sarah Culberson was a popular photo partner, seen here with Indira Majumder being photographed by PDG Ranjit



PDG and Zone 33 End Polio Now Coordinator Bernie Riedel from District 7770 updates conference attendees on Rotary's Polio eradication progress



Princess Sarah Culberson, daughter of Morgantown North Rotarian Jim Culberson, provides an informative and lively summary of her journey discovering her birth father in Sierra Leone after which she gratefully accepted a \$12,000 donation to support a digital classroom and provide solar lanterns for families in Sierra Leone

Four teams of 12 Rotarians and friends joined forces to pack 10,440 meals for West Virginians with food insecurity



Rotary International President
Nominee Stephanie Urchick
provides a comprehensive update
on Rotary International priorities
and progress



DG Dan recognizes Don Nestor from
the Buckhannon-Upshur Rotary Club as
the longest serving Rotarian at the
conference

District Membership Chair PDG Sean
Sawyer accepts a Rotary flamingo
(and later a theme paperweight)
in appreciation for his service during
the current Rotary year. District
Rotary Foundation Chair PDG Terry
Mathias was also recognized for his
service





PDG Ron Napier from District 7570 led an informative session of bourbon tasting



Conference Chair Kingwood Rotary Club President Kerry Gnik and her Deputy, Weston Rotary Club President and Area 7 Governor Tina Cunningham take a well-deserved break following Saturday's dinner program

DG Dan and Carol found time to relax at the Brews, Blues & BBQ





Smore's at the fire pit were a fitting end to Saturday's program

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

A highlight of the District Conference was the announcement of several club and individual district awards. Here's a summary of those recognized:

- District Rotarian of the Year Tina Cunningham of the Weston Rotary Club
- District Service Above Self Award Patty Dickey of the Barboursville Rotary Club
- Most Improved Club Rotary Club of Fairmont, WV
- District Community Service Award Rotary Club of Newburg, WV
- District Public Image Award Rotary Club of Princeton, WV

Also recognized during the Conference:

- District Membership Chair PDG Sean Sawyer
- District Rotary Foundation Chair PDG Terry Mathias
- District Conference Chair Kerry Gnik of the Kingwood Rotary Club
- Longest serving Rotarian present Don Nestor of the Buckhannon-Upshur Rotary Club
- Newest Rotarian present Aaron Ashley of the Mountain State e-Club



Congratulations to all those recognized!!

MORGANTOWN AREA CLUBS UNITE TO SUPPORT RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Members of the Morgantown North, Morgantown, Cheat Lake, Weston, Kingwood and Beckley Rotary Clubs joined forces at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Morgantown to pack 29,000 meal packs in support of Rise Against Hunger last month.



Their efforts will provide up to 174,000 individual meals for those suffering from food insecurity. Another great inter-Area service project within our district.

LEWISBURG ROTARY CLUB SUPPORTS LOCAL SHELTER

On Saturday, April 15, 2023, members of the Lewisburg Rotary Club participated in a work day at the God's Way Home shelter located on 11th Street in Rainelle. Rotarians patched drywall and painted throughout the house, which will be used to house up to eight residents when the property is fully renovated.

In addition, the Lewisburg Rotary Club made a \$500 donation to God's Way Home to support its work in providing recovery services to men who are suffering from alcohol and drug addiction while teaching them to become productive members of society.



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF MARCHING SHOW BANDS CHAMPIONSHIP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

As reported in the February Newsletter, The World Association of Marching Show Bands (WAMSB) is holding their world championship competition in Buckhannon West Virginia from July 17-26, 2023. This is only the second time the event has been held in the U.S.

WAMSB is an international association of marching show bands from 32 nations and the event promises to showcase the talents of young people from across the globe.

The Buckhannon-Upshur Rotary Club is inviting District Rotarians to join them in supporting this event. Greeters are needed to show hospitality and connect participants with their transportation to Buckhannon (and then to their accommodations). All volunteers should be registered on the volunteer site at the following link: (https://buckhannonwv.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=142974) and complete the associated paperwork. In the comments on their volunteer registration, they should note they are a Rotarian.



NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE RETURNS TO SOUTHERN WV

The Boy Scouts of America is holding another National Scout Jamboree at The Summit Bechtel Reserve this summer, the first national jamboree since 2017. As was the case with prior jamborees, volunteers will greet day visitors to the jamboree at the J.W. & Hazel Ruby West Virginia Welcome Center off U.S.-19 in Mount Hope.

Volunteers are used to assist in directing traffic, loading visitors on shuttle buses and in security screening. Volunteers that complete a three hour shift receive a complementary day pass to observe the jamboree.



Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| • Friday, July 21 st | <i>Shift full</i> | noon – 3:00 pm |
| • Saturday, July 22 nd | <i>Shift full</i> | noon – 3:00 pm |
| • Monday, July 24 th | 9:00 am – noon | noon – 3:00 pm |
| • Tuesday, July 25 th | 9:00 am – noon | noon – 3:00 pm |
| • Wednesday, July 26 th | 9:00 am – noon | noon – 3:00 pm |

Contact Rotarian Carol McCarthy at designsbycarol@gmail.com to volunteer or for additional information.

CART BUCKETS DISTRIBUTED AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

District CART Champion Walt Hall of the St Albans Rotary Club was out and about distributing CART buckets to District 7545 Rotary Clubs at this year's District Conference.

Not familiar with CART? CART was founded in 1995 by Roger Ackerman, a Rotarian in Sumter, SC. The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is a non-profit grassroots organization that provides "seed" money for cutting edge, high impact research grants to help find a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's Disease.

CART buckets are used to collect pocket change at Rotary meetings. 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to research! And since 1999, funds collected have enabled 64 grants totaling more than \$11 million to be awarded to 62 recognized research institutions in the United States.



**District 7545 CART
Champion Walt Hall**



The CART Fund is a 501(C)3 organization (Federal ID #31-1466051) governed by an Executive Committee and a Board of Directors composed of representatives from qualified Rotary districts that support the program.

While primarily supported by members of Rotary Clubs in the United States, CART has an active volunteer base and can accept donations of major gifts, bequests or volunteer efforts from anyone. A new donor recognition program was recently introduced, allowing "recurring donors" through the

online system to be designated as members of the "Roger Ackerman Circle."

Learn more about CART at <https://cartfund.org/> and if your club doesn't have a CART bucket, contact Walt at walter@morrisinsuranceservices.com.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS to the following District 7545 Clubs that grew their membership during the month of April (those with an * following their name have grown the last two months)!

Canyon Rim*	Charleston Vandalia*	Grafton	Harrison County*
Huntington	Madison*	Morgantown North	Moundsville
Newburg	Point Pleasant	South Fairmont*	South Charleston
Summersville	Wheeling*		

If your club isn't on this list, 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.

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OUR DISTRICT

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU POST!

Rotary International recently sent a reminder to club Presidents and District Leaders regarding the need for vigilance to avoid copyright infringements in web postings. Here's an excerpt from that communication:

The U.S. Rotary Club & District Liability Insurance Program provides all U.S. Rotary and Rotaract clubs and districts with general liability and directors & officers/employment practices liability insurance. Rotary districts/clubs have posted images and other media (cartoons, songs, etc) online in disregard of copyright laws, resulting in a considerable increase in claims activity under the U.S. Rotary Club & District Liability Insurance Program ("Program"). **Over 40% of the Program's open claims now pertain to copyright infringement.**



Copyright owners hire companies offering software that "trolls" the internet in search of copyright violations involving their images or other media. These companies are commonly referred to as copyright trolls. When a troll finds a violation, they contact the party who mis-used the image or other media and make a demand to settle the violation. Failure to respond to the demand increases the difficulty of resolving the claim.

It is your Rotary district's/club's responsibility to comply with copyright laws. As a general rule, instead of lifting images or other media off the internet, use images or other media created by members of your Rotary district/club (after first having received their permission) or use the [Rotary Brand Center](#).

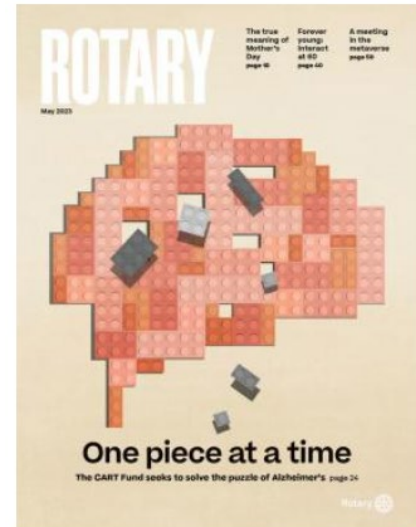


ROTARY MAGAZINE DIGITAL EDITION AVAILABLE

One way to reduce the cost of your Rotary membership is to shift to the digital edition of the Rotary Magazine. For those interested in doing so, the process is simple. Go to: <https://my.rotary.org/en/node/18361>, scroll down and complete the on-line form. It's that easy.

Be sure to have your Rotary ID number handy (you can get it from your DACdb profile).

If you sign up this month, you'll start receiving the digital edition in July and reduce your Rotary Magazine subscription cost by half.



RLI NEW FACULTY TRAINING SCHEDULED

Have you completed all three parts of Rotary Leader Institute? If so, you are eligible to be trained as an RLI facilitator.



New Faculty Training will be offered at the summer meeting for RLI Faculty. This training will take place on **Saturday July 8, 2023** from 8:30 - 3:30 at Virginia Crossings in Richmond, VA. If you choose to participate in this event, you are also invited to be part of the Faculty Update on Friday afternoon.

Interested in becoming a faculty member? Contact District 7545 RLI Coordinator Craig Stout at preachman55@hotmail.com for more information.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN CLUB TURNS MELON SEEDS INTO CASH

Southern Michigan lore tells of a wanderer who handed melon seeds to a greenhouse owner. The resulting Howell melon has been celebrated by townfolk with an annual festival now in its 63rd year. The Rotary Club of Howell has gotten in on the festivities by selling a Howell melon-flavored ice cream.

In August the 40-member club sold 7,000 cups of the ice cream and 1,500 half-gallon containers over the weekend fair. More than 100 people, including Rotarians, members of the Interact Club of Howell High School, and school athletes, pitched in to help.



The endeavor scooped up \$30,000 for scholarships, local youth programs, and other community projects. “It’s so popular that no matter what time we say we’re going to start selling there’s going to be a line,” says Sandie Cortez, a past president of the Howell club. “People go crazy over this.”

Now that’s imagining!

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Jackson’s Mill	May 12-14, 2023
Foundation Summit, Kanawha County Public Library	Jun 10, 2023
District Leadership Installation, Bridgeport Conference Center	Jun 23, 2023
District Training Assembly, Bridgeport Conference Center	Jun 24, 2023
District Foundation Recognition Dinner, Bridgeport Conference Center	Nov 3, 2023
2024 District Conference, Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place	May 31-Jun 2, 2024



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](#)

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

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

General Secretary/CEO
John Hewko

Immediate Past District Governor
"Coop" Cooper | 304-642-2667
District Treasurer
Ed Westfall | 304-203-4007
District Secretary
Carol McCarthy | 703-587-4453

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

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 June Newsletter is May 30th

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