

DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary
District 7545



North Bend State Park, Ritchie Cty.

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NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Fellow District 7545 Rotarians,

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were filled with fun, family, and friends and that you are reenergized for the New Year.

It's hard to believe we are already half way into the Rotary Year. Given that we are, it's a great time to assess your progress against this year's goals, be they club goals or personal goals. What goals, you ask? Well hopefully you've given thought to what you want to accomplish as a Rotarian and as a club this year. If you have not, there's still time to do so. And if you need ideas, visit Rotary Club Central in your My Rotary account and look at the goal center where Rotary has outlined 26 areas in which you can consider setting a goal for this year.

This month is Vocational Service month. Our founder, Paul Harris, has been quoted as having said: "Of all the hundred and one ways in which men [and women] can make themselves useful to society, undoubtedly the most available and often the most effective are within the spheres of their own occupations." That's a good reminder that one of Rotary's Avenues of Service is Vocational Service and, as such, we all should be considering ways in which we can expand the general understanding of our vocations and support those who are early in their vocational journey.

J. Dan McCarthy
Governor, RI District 7545



DG Dan & Carol McCarthy



CLUB IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Chartered December 1st, 1920 and serving the city of Grafton and Taylor County the Grafton WV Rotary Club is currently 65 members strong and is working on its fifth consecutive year of growth as a club. Most recently, the club has founded the

district's newest Satellite Club supporting the adjacent county of Barbour, a great example of expanding their impact.

A member of Area 5, supported by Area Governor Sam McDaniel, their signature event is the Honor Celebration. Every year in the spring the club celebrates the graduating honor students of Grafton High School. The event was started by Rotarian David Rogers who wanted to recognize students for their academic achievements since there seemed to be more of a focus on sports achievements at the time. Families, Honor Guests, and Honor students are celebrated throughout the evening for their successes. The club has many impactful fundraisers and service projects throughout the year but the Honor Celebration is a highlight within their community.

According to Club President Alesha Tocco, "The Grafton club is looking to add more events and more members in the upcoming year, continuing its momentum of growth and positive effect on the world around them."

ROTARY FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUND SHARE

Confused by Rotary Foundation terminology? Don't be. Here's a simple way to think about the four funds administered by The Rotary Foundation Trustees:

- **Annual Fund** (meeting today's needs) - all donations distributed for:
 - Annual Fund SHARE (source of district grants)
 - World Fund (source of Global grants)
 - Area of Focus Funds (donor designated contributions for specific areas of focus)
- **Polio Plus Fund** (Rotary's #1 priority)
- **Endowment Fund** (meeting future needs) - donations held in perpetuity with only interest earned distributed for:
 - Program Support (including Rotary Peace Centers, SHARE, World Fund and Area of Focus Funds)
 - Operating expenses
 - Administrative expenses
- **Disaster Response Fund**

Annual Fund SHARE is the source of the funds we receive from Rotary International to support our district grants. Donations to Annual Fund SHARE are invested for three years to support Foundation operations and then redistributed as shown in the diagram to the right. All Rotary members are asked to donate to the Annual Fund each year and take part in at least one Foundation project or program each year.



Through the SHARE system, contributions to The Rotary Foundation are transformed into grants that fund local and international humanitarian projects, scholarships, vocational training teams, and more. After three years, our district receives 47.5% of the funds originally donated three years prior in the form of District Designated Funds (DDF) which we then use to pay for Foundation, club, and district projects of our choice. We may also use, and typically do, up to half of our DDF to fund district grants. The remaining DDF is used for global grants supported by our district's clubs or donated to PolioPlus, the Rotary Peace Centers, or another district.

(Story continues on Pg.3)

As of this writing, our donations to Annual Fund SHARE have reached 37.4% of our goal. Thank you if you are already a contributor. If not, please consider making a contribution now. It's easy to do so by clicking on the DONATE button on www.Rotary.org. And while you're there, consider becoming a recurring donor through [Rotary Direct](#) (it's the easiest way to become a Sustaining member or a Paul Harris Society member).

To learn more about Rotary's Annual Fund, visit [My Rotary](#).

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

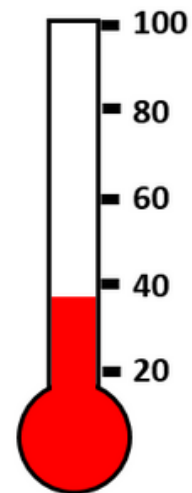
"We have all heard that with each day that passes, so grows the importance of being efficient with the days our futures hold. The same applies to Rotary, and the membership of our organization. But, keep in mind that when we hear terms like "membership growth," we're not talking about growing just for the sake of growing. And, membership shouldn't be a dreaded word in our Club discussions. In fact, it should be a concept that we welcome and embrace. More members means an increased number of great things together we can do. More hands on deck means the greater the size of the army that performs the service project or participates in the fundraiser. The more members our Club has, the more it can spread the word of the value in contributing to The Rotary Foundation. The more of us there are, the more visible we become, enhancing our public image and causing more people in our community to be interested in what it is we do . . . making this world better.

Listen, don't allow yourself to get unnecessarily overwhelmed, as the steps to follow are actually quite simple. Start with the fact that the less we lose, the easier growth can be. Then, realize that staying stagnant will never lead to growth and that we cannot 'retain' our way to more members. So, then we look at attracting new ones . . . not truckloads of new members, rather consistent, moderate net growth, like five percent per year. Next, don't forget to educate them on what Rotary looks and feels like from the inside, so that, for example, the first invoice doesn't catch anyone by surprise. Then, once we've kept all the ones we had, gotten a few new ones, and properly oriented and onboarded everyone, we must realize that people stay only when they feel involved. If we give our members nothing to do and engage, how long will it be before they get bored and leave the Club?

To conclude, as we approach and pass the midpoint of this Rotary year during this holiday season, think about what your particular individual world would look like without Rotary. Really think about it. Then, resolve how prepared you are to prevent that from happening. Go to the Membership Action Plan section of your very own DACdb account and see how easy it can be to get involved, because it's really this simple . . . we need to keep those we have AND make an effort to create additional consistent, moderate growth. Then, we never have to think about what this world looks like without Rotary.

So, if you don't already have a Membership Chair identified for this year, be sure to have one picked TODAY for next year. If you do have a Membership Chair, make sure your Club's goals are entered on MAP and Rotary Club Central. If you've done that too, start planning your next activity designed to lead toward growth, whether it be a Discover Rotary event or something else. Also start getting ready to attend the annual Membership Summit on March 9. If you still have questions at that point, call me anytime . . . I am YOUR District Membership Chair- Sean Sawyer

D7545 Membership
Net Growth



HOW IS YOUR GOAL PROGRESS?



Do you know your club's goals for this Rotary Year? If not, ask! Club leaders should consider holding a Club Assembly in January to discuss progress on this year's goals with the membership and ensure the entire club is working to support achievement.

If you haven't recorded your club goals in Rotary Club Central, now is the time to do that as well!

FROM THE DISTRICT CALENDAR

As we begin a new year, here's an update on coming events. Mark your calendars now!

CLUB VISITS

Spencer: 1/8
Bridgeport: 1/9
Kimball: 1/9
Wood County: 1/11
Princeton: 1/26
Logan: 1/31
Tug Valley: 2/1

EVENTS

3/8: President-elect Training (PETS); WVSOM, Lewisburg
3/9: District Training Summit*; WVSOM, Lewisburg
5/31: District Golf Tournament; Location TBA
5/31 - 6/2: District Conference; Morgantown

**Note: the District Training Summit includes what were previously three separate events: the District Membership Summit, District Foundation Summit and the District Training Assembly. Clubs must have at least one member attend the Foundation sessions to qualify for 2024-25 District grants.*

DISTRICT PHOTO CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the Wood County Rotary Club for winning our first ever Instagram Photo Contest! Their photo (*shown here*) received the most likes and engagement on our District Instagram page. It depicts members of their Club and the Interact Club from Parkersburg Catholic High School, shopping at Walmart for their grant recipient, The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley. Purchases were made for the Arc's "Secret Christmas Program" that helps 240 adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities have a special Christmas. As the winner, the Wood County Rotary Club will be receiving \$250 for their next community service project.



Thank you to all of the clubs that submitted a photo for our contest. It is great seeing all of the service that our clubs are performing around the state!

VOCATIONAL SERVICE



The Object of Rotary includes four specific areas of focus. The concept of vocational service is rooted in the second object, which calls on Rotarians to encourage and foster:

- “High ethical standards in business and professions”
- “The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations”
- “The dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society as a Rotarian.”

How can you put these ideals into action? Consider these suggestions:

- Talk about your profession in your club, and take time to learn about the occupations of fellow members.
- Use your vocational skills and expertise to serve your community.
- Practice your profession with integrity, and inspire others to behave ethically through your words and actions.
- Help young people further their careers in your vocation.
- Guide and encourage others in their professional development.

By undertaking these activities, you bring vocational service to life. Vocational service is the essence of Rotary and serves as the foundation from which we serve our communities around the world.

Additional reading can be found on the Rotary website’s [Service in Action](#) Blog.

Let’s Connect:



www.rotarydistrict7545.org
rotarydistrict7545@gmail.com



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**