

DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary
District 7545



Babcock State Park, Fayette Cty.

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NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

We have our newest member of the District Governor chain. Congratulations to Julie Sawyer! Read more about Julie later in this edition of the District Pulse and on our district website.

Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution is the theme for this month, I encourage you to take the time to learn more about Rotary's worldwide peace efforts. Consider inviting a Rotary Peace fellow to speak at a club meeting or check out the Rotary Action Group For Peace. If you need some new ideas, here's a link to a Rotary Build Peace [brochure](#).

Upcoming events this month include President-elect Seminar (PETS) and the District Training Summit. The District Training Summit aims to reduce the number of independent district events by consolidating the District Training Assembly, Membership Summit, and Foundation Summit into a one-day training summit. Much like the Zone has a single weekend to train district leadership teams, this change enables clubs to bring their current and upcoming leadership teams together to work to benefit their clubs.



Registration is open for both events, so register now on DACdb. You'll benefit from the knowledge and experience of senior Rotary leaders as well as from your peers to learn ways to improve your club. All Rotarians are welcome, whether they hold a club leadership position or not. It will be a great gathering and sharing of ideas to **Grow Rotary!** See you in Lewisburg on March 8th and 9th!

J. Dan McCarthy
Governor, RI District 7545



DG Dan & Carol McCarthy

2026-2027 DISTRICT GOVERNOR SELECTED

We are pleased to announce that Julie Sawyer of the Fairmont Rotary Club has been selected by our District Nominating Committee and approved by Rotary International as our 2026-27 District 7545 District Governor.



A native of Morgantown, WV, Julie now resides with her husband, Sean, in Preston County, WV. They have five grown children, three loyal pups, two independent cats, and an angry bird. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Science Education from West Virginia University in 1998, Julie first entered the education field as a middle school teacher in Monongalia County. She was then promoted to Administration at the central Board office as Child Nutrition Manager. After receiving her Master of Business Administration from Salem University in 2011, Julie served the Board as a Human Resources Manager, Payroll Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant to Personnel and Finance, until welcoming her retirement in January 2023.

Alongside her vocational journey, after several years of being involved with Rotary service projects in her community, Julie became an official member of Rotary International in 2018. Julie is a past recipient of her Club's 'Revive and Thrive' Award, is a Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute (MARLI) graduate, and has gone on to become a certified MARLI facilitator. She has previously served in various capacities at the district level including her current service as District Communications Officer.

Julie has also had the privilege of serving at the Zone level in several capacities. Her belief in The Rotary Foundation and its efforts to enable all Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace has led her and husband, Sean, to become Major Donors Level I, and members of the Bequest Society Level IV, Paul Harris Society, and Polio Plus Society. She also regularly supports the Marion County Disability Action Center, and currently serves as a Board member for Kicking It For Katy, a local non-profit suicide awareness and prevention organization.

Julie becomes our District Governor Nominee Designate effective immediately. Please join us in congratulating Julie as the newest member of our District 7545 Governor chain.

DISTRICT GRANT FINAL REPORTS

We are at the six-month mark of our Rotary year, so it's time to start finalizing those projects and filing your report. This year, we are moving the final report to an online platform (and next year's grant application will look very similar).

Here is the link to your final report. [2023-24 Final Report](#).



DISTRICT POLIO PLUS GIVING AMONG TOP IN ZONE

Year-to-date Polio Plus giving in our district is up over 35%, putting us 6th in our Zone. Thank you to those who have contributed. You are making a difference in eradicating this dreaded disease! The fight continues.

While all contributions are appreciated, we need your help in supporting The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund SHARE, the source of our district grant funding. There's a complete explanation in last month's District Pulse available on our District website. Let's work on raising our ranking in the Zone in Annual Fund SHARE giving and boost the funds available for district grants in our district.

CLUB IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Chartered December 1st, 1915 and serving the Capitol city of Charleston in Kanawha County the Rotary Club of Charleston is one of the district's few century clubs as well as the largest club in the district with 184 members. The club has been growing recently with a renewed focus on membership growth.



A member of Area 11, supported by Area Governor Bryan Cokeley, the club took on a major initiative recently and raised \$153,000 in partnership with the City of Charleston, Kanawha County Schools, philanthropic organizations, businesses, and individual contributors to upgrade and modernize a key community playground area targeting low-income families. Dubbed Celebration Station II, the completed project provides children the opportunity to practice and hone key social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills.

To learn more about Celebration Station II, check out [this article](#) from the WCHS network or this one from the [Gazette](#).

Club President Michelle Foster expressed her appreciation for the community's support of Celebration Station II, stating, "The Charleston Rotary Club is honored to be a catalyst for the restoration of this community treasure. We are thankful to our donors and project partners for their unwavering commitment to seeing this project finally come to fruition."

2024 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES FLOAT



In case you missed it, here's a photo of this year's Rotary float in the Tournament of Roses Parade. How did Rotary get in the Rose Parade?

While watching the 1978 Pasadena Rose Parade on Television, Jack Gilbert, who was President of the Wilshire Rotary Club, in Los Angeles, California, and subsequently chairman of the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee, had an idea. Rotary would be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 1980. Jack believed that by entering a float in the 1980 New Year's Day Rose Parade, Rotary could communicate its message, "Service Above Self" to millions of people worldwide.

Jack shared his vision with other Rotarians, who supported the idea. Seven Governors in Southern California agreed to underwrite the cost of the float and make up any shortfall not covered by Club contributions. Fortunately, the Clubs contributed \$35,000 which covered the full cost of the original float.

This first Tournament of Roses experience led to the formation of the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee which now receives contributions each year from several Rotary Districts and Rotary Clubs to fund the float. The Committee has entered a float every year since 1980.

Follow the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee on [Facebook](#).

HELP HONOR THE LEGACY OF WOODY WILLIAMS



As many, if not most, of you know, we lost an extraordinary American and patriot on June 29, 2022 with the passing of the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient, CWO4 Hershel "Woody" Williams. What you may not know is that Woody was a D7545 Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Milton.

Woody's final wish was that his lifelong efforts to support Gold Star Families, those who have lost an immediate family member in service to our nation, be continued.

Since his passing, our district has worked to finalize arrangements to build a Gold Star

Families Memorial Monument (GSFMM) to honor Woody's legacy of service. Those efforts have now come to fruition and permission has been granted for the construction of a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Elkins, WV.

We are at the point where the funds to support the construction are needed. A website providing detailed information on the project and how to donate has been created.

The Committee's objective is to get as many Rotarians as possible to be part of this effort to honor Woody's legacy. All we ask is that you consider contributing some amount of your choosing so that you will appear as a contributor. Donations of any amount can be made at ElkinsGoldStarMemorial.org.

ON THE HUNT FOR NEW MEMBERS?

One of the quickest ways to increase your club's impact is to grow your club. In DMC Sean's words: "More members means an increased number of great things together we can do... the greater the size of the army that performs the service project or participates in the fundraiser... the more it can spread the word of the value in contributing to The Rotary Foundation... 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."

How do you grow your club? Here are two great resources:

- [District 7545 Member Care Manual](#)
- [Zone 33/34 Membership Action Plan \(MAP\) webinars](#)



The member care manual provides a host of resources for club leaders that support both member attraction and retention. The MAP: webinars provide bite sized sessions on the tools and techniques for assessing your membership trends, identifying areas of focus and providing tailored recommendations to fit your club's unique circumstances.

The tools are there. All you need to do is use them to grow your club and increase your impact, but if you need personalized help, our District Membership Team is there to help. Reach out to District Membership Chair PDG Sean Sawyer at sawyer.higinbotham@gmail.com or any member of the District Membership Team.

DELIVERING A POSITIVE CLUB EXPERIENCE



Wondering what your members really think of their club? When was the last time you conducted a club survey to find out? Need help conducting a survey? Check out the 24 minute segment of MAP webinar 7 to see how easy it is using the Membership

Success Center to generate a club-wide survey on-line.

In the words of Rotary International President-elect (RIPE) Stephanie Urchick: "Individuals don't leave Rotary, they leave clubs in which they don't feel comfortable." Club surveys help you get a sense of how your club members feel.

Want to learn more about creating a positive club experience in which your members feel comfortable? Check out this [10-minute video](#) featuring RIPE Stephanie.

FROM THE DISTRICT CALENDAR

✦ Join us for a Magical Year of Service! ✦

PETS and District Training Summit
March 8-9, 2024

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
900 Lee Street North
Lewisburg, WV 24901

Bring Your Club Leadership for this
Mandatory Training

Register to attend on DACdb:
Questions: Jeff Disibio @ jeff@coectwovirginias.com
704 965 2815

Join Your Rotary District Leaders and fellow
Rotarians and Let's
Create Lasting Change Through Rotary

Make your own magic

A photograph of a young child standing on a sandy beach at night, looking up at a starry sky. The child is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark shorts. The background shows the dark ocean and a few stars in the sky.

CLUB VISITS

Ripley: 2/7
Huntington: 2/12
Weston: 2/15

EVENTS

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



Registration is now open for President-elect training on March 8th and the District Training Summit on March 9th. Both are to be held at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, 400 Lee Street North, Lewisburg WV. Learn more and register via the District calendar on DACdb or using the registration button below:

REGISTER NOW



Let's Connect:



www.rotarydistrict7545.org
rotarydistrict7545@gmail.com



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD