

# DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary  
District 7545



Berkeley Springs State Park, Berkeley Cty.

*IN THIS ISSUE:*

NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

CLUB IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH FAIRMONT

HELP HONOR THE LEGACY OF WOODY WILLIAMS

CLUB VISIONING SUPPORT AVAILABLE

IS YOUR CLUB SIMPLY IRRESISTABLE?

PRISTINE RIVERS INITIATIVE BEING LAUNCHED

HOW'S YOUR CLUB'S SUPPORT OF THE FOUNDATION?

CHANGES TO CLUB GOAL SETTING

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE

DISTRICT CALENDAR

MONTHLY THEME:

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

## NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

This month's theme is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. As I thought about this theme, I was reminded of the presentation given by past Rotary International Vice President Anne Mathews at our Rotary Foundation event last November during which she illustrated how precious clean water is and how important it is that we preserve what we have. Rotary is making a difference in this area in many ways. One of the most significant is its efforts to provide potable water and good sanitation to the entire country of Haiti, through the [HANWASH initiative](#). Truly an effort to Create Hope in the World.

Our District Training Summit is upon us. This is an important event, not just for preparing next year's slate of club leaders, but also in supporting the membership journey of Rotarians in general. It provides a great opportunity to interact with both district and club leaders. It also provides a great opportunity to share and learn best practices. There's still time to register, but you need to **ACT NOW** by registering [HERE!](#)

Lastly, we're making good progress on many of our district goals and particularly in membership growth. At last report, we are up 52 (2.7%) for the year and tied for 2nd in our Zone in terms of membership growth.

Your district membership team is working hard to support you. All you need to do is reach out to one of them or directly to District Membership Chair PDG [Sean Sawyer](#). Let's keep up the growth momentum and reach **2024 in 2024!**

**J. Dan McCarthy**  
Governor, RI District 7545



DG Dan & Carol McCarthy

## CLUB IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Chartered February 11th, 1988 the Rotary Club of South Fairmont is 62 members strong and growing. In fact, the club has grown in five months of this Rotary year, an impressive accomplishment, increasing its membership by 12.7% in just eight months.



One of the clubs in Area 4 supported by Area Governor Joshua Stear, the club's signature project is Celebration of Lights, a winter lights display of over 500 LED seasonal Christmas lights that light up the City of Fairmont's Morris Park November and December each year since 2006. Listed as one of the top 10 light displays to visit in West Virginia by WV Tourism, it has taken on a life of its own. In 2023, the project saw over 26,000 people view the displays, raising over \$50,000. Since it began, in excess of 200,000 people have seen the light display resulting in an excess of \$400,000 for Marion County community service agencies. The club also maintains a High School Scholarship Fund, donating \$1,000 to a graduate of each of the four Marion County schools with the support of District grant funds.

According to Club President Dale Dzielski: "It is our members that make 'Service Above Self' a reality in our club's ability to reach so many in need across our Marion County community. I attribute our growth to the infectious energy our leadership team and all of our members create by serving with their time, resources, and giving."

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## HELP HONOR THE LEGACY OF ROTARIAN WOODY WILLIAMS



The Milton Rotary Club, Woody's home club, is leading the way in contributions to our Elkins Gold Star Families Memorial Monument project. At last report, they have already contributed \$9,000 of their \$10,000 pledge to the project.

Is your club contributing? Both club and individual donations are welcomed. Let's work together to ensure the legacy of this extraordinary Rotarian and patriot is preserved by supporting the establishment of this Gold Star Families Memorial Monument.

To learn more, check out the headline on our district webpage or at [Elkins Gold Star Families Monument](#).

## CLUB VISIONING SUPPORT AVAILABLE



Does your club have a current strategic plan? If not, help is available to assist you in creating one. DGN Rick Macak is leading a team of district Rotarians who are prepared to conduct club visitations and assist you through the process. A detailed email on the subject was recently sent explaining the program in more detail.

The process includes an in-person, four-hour session with club members (two two-hour virtual sessions are also available if an in person session is not possible).

Each Club requesting Vision Facilitation will designate a "Club Coordinator" who will work with the District Team Coordinator to provide

information and direction to club members. Procedurally, the District Team will lead the process consisting of an overview presentation, a writing exercise, data collection, consensus voting and breakout exercise with sample action plan development. The Club will then develop Action plans for each goal under the platform of a three-year Master Plan. This is the "Vision to Success" step and will continue to be developed by the Club and monitored by the District Team.

Clubs interested in engaging in a District-led Visioning exercise should contact [Rick Macak](#), the District 7545 Team Coordinator, or any of the Team members.

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## IS YOUR CLUB SIMPLY IRRESISTABLE?

Soliciting feedback from your members and truly listening to what they have to say is an important step in creating a "simply irresistible club" in the words of RIPE Stephanie Urchick. Stephanie goes on to reference the five elements of a Simply Irresistible Organization as outlined by author Josh Bersin: meaningful work [think purpose], a positive work environment [think fun], growth opportunities [think vocational and leadership development], and trust in leadership. How does your club measure up? Learn more at this link:[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.



## PRISTINE RIVERS INITIATIVE BEING LAUNCHED

One of the blessings of living in West Virginia is the abundant water supply provided by our rivers and streams. In fact, The West Virginia Encyclopedia indicates West Virginia has nearly 40,000 stream miles, "one of the highest densities of any region in North America." That's the good news!

Unfortunately, many of those streams and watersheds are encumbered by litter, and particularly by plastics that contaminate both our rivers and our oceans. Check out this [link](#) to get a sense of what happens to plastics deposited in our rivers.

Rotarian John Lichter of our Morgantown North Rotary Club is passionate about ensuring West Virginia rivers are clean and is initiating a Pristine Rivers Initiative to ensure they are. The Goal of the Pristine Rivers Initiative is to eliminate litter in West Virginia Rivers initially and eventually to expand that effort to other watersheds.



Twenty years of experience gained by the Coal River Group cleaning up the Coal River Watershed has provided a playbook that is acting as a model to encourage individuals who are passionate about cleaning our watersheds to join this effort. Similar initiatives have started on tributaries of the Monongahela River near Morgantown, as well as several other watersheds aligned with the Tug, Tygart, New, Gauley, Kanawha and Greenbrier Rivers.

John is organizing a charter group of Rotarians throughout the State to assist in developing this Pristine Rivers Initiative for West Virginia. This program is expected to develop as an outreach effort to attract others to Rotary that are passionate about cleaning up our rivers and watersheds. The initiative is anticipated to lead to the eventual development of a Rotary International Program of Scale to expand this effort.

If you or your club are interested in getting involved in this effort at the ground level, reach out to John by email at [jlichter@sunbeltnetwork.com](mailto:jlichter@sunbeltnetwork.com) or give him a call at 304-276-1880 and become part of this effort to clean up the rivers and watersheds of West Virginia.

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## HOW'S YOUR CLUB'S SUPPORT OF THE FOUNDATION?

Ever wondered how your club is doing in support of our Foundation as compared to other clubs in our district? Your club leadership can access a Club Fundraising Analysis report via their My Rotary account to find out. Just log in and scroll down to the club box, click on View Reports and look for Club Fundraising Analysis



For comparison purposes, the top contributing club in the district through the month of January is averaging \$195 in donations to Annual Fund SHARE per club member. The average across all clubs in the district is \$39 in donations to Annual Fund SHARE per club member.

How is your club doing? Remember, it's donations to Annual Fund SHARE that ultimately provide the funds we receive to support our district grants (check the article in our January District Pulse for a more complete explanation).

Let's make an extra effort these last few months of the Rotary year to raise our Annual Fund SHARE contributions. And to all those supporting our foundation, Thank You!!

## CHANGES TO CLUB GOAL SETTING

This just in from the Rotary International Club and District Support Team:

For years, Rotary Club Central has helped clubs set and report goals as well as retrieve information and reports for the club, district, and global levels. We're writing to let you know that by the end of this month you will notice a streamlined user interface that'll improve your user experience, including:

- Updating the homepage to take you to the Club Goals page, since goal setting is the primary purpose of the tool.
- Reorganizing the navigation so it's easier to use.
- Clarifying terminology to improve readability and alignment with our Action Plan.

The Rotary Club Central Resources course in Rotary's Learning Center has also been updated. Plus, we're laying the foundation for future enhancements, so there's more to come!



## YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE

**Youth Exchange:** Youth Exchange Jayla Reams from Elkins has been accepted as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student to Ecuador. ([RYLA applications on district website](#)).

Jayla Reams of Elkins has been selected to be an outbound Rotary Youth Exchange student from District 7545. Jayla will be studying in Ecuador for the 2024-2025 year.

Jayla is currently a sophomore at Elkins High School. She enjoys athletics, playing volleyball, swimming and running track. Additionally, she is taking jujitsu training and is involved in the Old Brick theater program. She participates in activities reflecting Service Above Self by volunteering at Feed the City and helps with the Mountaineer Food Bank Truck.



While Jayla has traveled throughout the United States, this will be her first adventure outside the United States. In the next few months, Jayla will be preparing for her year abroad by studying about her host country, getting her travel papers in order and putting together a presentation in Spanish about her home and interests. The preparation will culminate with an orientation program for Jayla and her parents at Otterbein University in Ohio in late June. Jayla will leave for her year in Ecuador in July or August.

RYLA: The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference will take place May 10 - 12, 2024 at Jackson's Mill Conference Center in Weston, WV. All Rotary District 7545 clubs are encouraged to sponsor 9th grade students to this conference. The cost is \$175.00 per student.

For more information and forms for sponsorship, visit the [District 7545 website](#).

Questions can be sent to PDG [Dennis Shreve](#), District Youth Services Chair.

# PEACE CORPS OFFERS VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE



Make a lasting impact in communities around the world without leaving home

Rotary and Rotaract members are eligible to serve in Peace Corps' Virtual Service Pilot. Participants donate 5-15 hours per week for 3 to 6 months to support organizations abroad with their community-level projects related to education, health, agriculture, youth development, and entrepreneurship. Apply your professional skills,

language skills, and interest in both global friendships and cultural exchange to build capacity and sustainability through a short-term, virtual engagement.

To learn more, check out [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).



## FROM THE DISTRICT CALENDAR

### DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Conference Chair Nicole Gerard and her team are busy at work preparing for our 2024 District Conference. You should have received a separate "Save the Date" email, but if not, here's a reminder!

District 7545 Conference  
May 31 - June 2, 2024  
Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place

All District 7545 Rotarians are invited. See you there!

### CLUB VISITS

White Sulphur Springs: 3/7  
Charleston: 3/11

### EVENTS

3/8: **President-elect Training;**  
**WVSOM, Lewisburg**  
3/9: **District Training Summit\*;**  
**WVSOM, Lewisburg**  
4/27: **RLI, Fairmont State University**  
5/31: **District Golf Tournament; Location TBA**  
5/31 - 6/2: **District Conference; Morgantown**  
11/1: **District Foundation Celebration;**  
**Pete Dye Golf Course, Bridgeport**

*\*Note: Clubs must have at least one member attend the Foundation sessions to qualify for 2024-25 District grants*

Let's Connect:



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in the **WORLD**