

DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary
District 7545



District 7545 Club Canyon Rim

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**MEMBERSHIP AND NEW
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NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

How did July pass so quickly? We are already into our second month of the Rotary year and the theme this month, which is my favorite, is "Membership and New Club Development." This is no surprise to those of you I've already visited, since one of our District goals is steady, consistent, moderate membership growth. The adage that if you get membership right then everything else falls into place certainly applies.

Simply put: more Rotarians means more service hours in our communities, more donors to support The Rotary Foundation with local and international impact, and additional Rotarians to seek out more prospective Rotarians.

I would be remiss as your District Governor, though, if I did not share with you some of the ways as a club president we experienced significant growth a few years ago. For those who attended PETS or experienced a recent DG visit, my apologies for this repeat:

- Create a sense of urgency. Talk membership at every club and board meeting.

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- Announce your membership goal early. Don't waste time -- each month is important. Steady moderate growth is OK; but if you want to stretch the club, go for it!
- Don't underestimate the power of the Presidential ask. It works! (But let me modify that to read the "Personal ask" because attraction is not solely a club president or membership chair responsibility. We are all responsible for club growth).
- To expand the club's reach and accessibility, consider a bylaw change to create an alternative meeting time to allow greater access. That works, too!
- Finally, ask for assistance. The District Membership Committee, Area Governors and the DG Chain are available to assist.

Now, this list is certainly not exhaustive. There are other "best practices" that are shared at various Membership Summits which also work. My challenge, though, is to get beyond discussion and sharing and into the action mode. Take the initial step, experience some small successes because small monthly successes generate momentum!

During this "Membership and New Club Development" month, I'd like to recognize and congratulate several clubs who have, since 2020, experienced from three to five years of consecutive growth:

Five Years: Morgantown

Four Years: Canyon Rim, Grafton, Peterstown, South Charleston

Three Years: Bridgeport, Morgantown North, Princeton, South Fairmont, White Sulfur Springs

If you haven't already done so, build your membership plan for the 2025-26 year and then put that plan into action. Don't forget to include the "Who Do You Know/Discover Rotary" option into your membership attraction toolkit.



Yours in Rotary Service,

Rick

FROM THE DISTRICT CALENDAR

Upcoming Club Visits

District Governor, Rick Macak will be on the road starting in July, visiting with several district clubs:

Grafton, Kingwood, & Newburg: 8/5	Putnam County: 8/19	Bluefield: 9/18	Morgantown North: 10/8
St. Albans: 8/7	Weston: 8/21	Princeton: 9/19	South Charleston: 10/16
White Sulfur Springs & Canyon Rim: 8/14	Wheeling: 8/26	Huntington: 9/29	Brooke County: 10/23
	Moundsville & New Martinsville: 8/27	Ripley & Point Pleasant: 10/1	Weirton & Weirton Heights: 10/23

Watch for more visit dates in upcoming monthly editions of the *District Pulse*.

CLUB IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ceredo Kenova Rotarians participated in the recent Ohio River Sweep in Kenova, WV. More than 90 area individuals, including Rotarians, local businesses, and the Cities of Kenova, WV and Catlettsburg, KY took part in this annual event. The group collected trash at both Virginia Point (Kenova, WV) and Catlettsburg, KY riverbanks.

The event is hosted by Orsanco/Foundation for Ohio River Education (F.O.R.E.). Ohio River Sweep is the annual, volunteer cleanup that extends the entire length of the Ohio River. Volunteers from the six states, which border the Ohio River, remove litter at multiple locations along the Ohio River and many of its tributaries. F.O.R.E. supplies the trash bags, gloves, and t-shirts for the event. Ceredo Kenova Rotary and Marathon Petroleum supplied a boxed lunch for the volunteers. Rollins Funeral Home provided the water. Other companies involved were Marathon Petroleum, Marathon Marine, MPLX, Braskem, AOC, AEP, and Kentucky Power.

Ceredo Kenova Rotary will celebrate its 100th anniversary on September 21, 2025. More details on celebration event coming soon!



CLUBS HELPING CLUBS IN DISTRICT 7545



In March, clubs in Region 1 including Brooke County Rotary, Weirton Rotary, and Weirton Heights Rotary got together on the occasion of then District Governor Jeff Disibbio's visit and packed 10,000 fortified meals to support food banks in Hancock and Brook Counties. While it was a great event, the flu had taken its toll on the community and attendance at the event was not as large as expected. There was food that could not be packed which went back to the Heaven Sent Ministries' warehouse until a solution could be found. Fast forward to June. The Rotary Club of Bluefield and The Rotary Club of Princeton joined forces at the Heaven Sent warehouse to get the rest of the food packed so that it could be transported back to Hancock and Brook Counties. Now that's teamwork!

GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL DEDICATED

After over two and a half years of planning, fund raising and construction, the newest Gold Star Families Memorial Monument (GSFMM) was dedicated on July 5, 2025, in Elkins, WV. This project was supported jointly by District 7545 and the West Virginia Department of The American Legion with the monument's design consistent with the guidelines required by The Woody Williams Foundation whose mission is: "to honor, recognize, and serve Gold Star Families and the legacy of their Loved Ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice."

For those unfamiliar, Hershel "Woody" Williams, WWII Medal of Honor recipient, fellow Rotarian and West Virginian, established his Foundation to support the creation of GSFMMs for three reasons:

- Provide a space the Gold Star Families can honor of their Loved Ones and their family.
- Provide a site in which to host Gold Star Family Outreach event programs
- Educate and raise awareness in the American public about Gold Star Families and the sacrifices that have been made for the freedoms we enjoy every day as Americans.

To honor Woody's legacy of service above self as a Rotarian, Veteran and servant leader, this monument was dedicated in Elkins, WV because of its:

- central location in West Virginia that is over an hour's drive away from the nearest GSFMM.
- high concentration of veterans in Randolph County, including 672 known Gold Star Families in the surrounding area
- location in Woody's home state and within the boundaries of his home Rotary District (7545).



Several District Rotarians served on the Executive Committee to oversee the project which included raising nearly \$200,000 needed for its completion and overseeing all events associated with the monument project. Those District Rotarians are:

- Justin D. McCarthy, VADM, SC, USN (ret), 2022-2024 District Governor, RI District 7545 of Fayetteville, WV
- Jeff Disibbio, 2024-2025 District Governor, RI District 7545 of Bluefield, WV
- Richard "Rick" Macak, LtCol, USMC (ret), 2025-2026 District Governor, RI District 7545 of Daniels, WV
- Kristie Vandevander, Past President, Rotary Club of Elkins, WV
- Jim Peterson, in memoriam.

Over 80 organizations and individuals contributed funds to make this monument possible. Specifically:

- Over 60% of the funds raised came from Woody's fellow Rotarians, not just from West Virginia, but from other parts of the country as well... of those Rotarian contributions, close to 40% came from the Rotary Club of Elkins.
- 80% of the funds raised were from West Virginians, 30% of those funds were from Randolph County, including both the Randolph County Commission and the city of Elkins.
- Contributions from outside West Virginia came from Rotarians and veterans from nine different states and districts of the U.S.

So, while the monument rests in Elkins, it is a product of the contributions of citizens and organizations throughout both West Virginia and the nation who honor the legacy of Woody Williams and support our gold star families.



"BUY ME A GOAT" PROJECT

The time has come for the "Goat Man" to be on his way to Ghana, yet again! Come mid-October 2025, I will venture to Bolgatanga in the upper reaches of Ghana to deliver female goats to young children. The "Buy Me A Goat Project" will roll again along with the "Joshua Sanpana Endeavor."

Michael Anyekase and Herb Mc Clagherty of the Rotary Club of Peterstown, will work to provide 500 female goats to children ages 8-13. The goal is for these children to breed their female goats and develop small herds. Eventually, they can assist their families in the purchase of essentials, school supplies, and uniforms.

The request is for clubs to assist in the purchase of these goats. Each female goat costs \$50, with an overall goal of 500 goats. Cost for Michael and Herb's travel are covered by them. No funds are solicited from Rotary International for this project, just the generous contributions from clubs and members across District 7545.

This fundraising effort will end for this year's goat project in early September 2025. To purchase a goat or goats for the children of Northern Ghana, please send checks made payable to:

Rotary Club of Peterstown, P.O. Box 148, Lindside, WV 24951
Attention: Sterl Morris, Treasurer



DG VISITS ROTARY CLUB OF ELKINS

DG Rick visited the Rotary Club of Elkins last week, giving the club an update on the Rotary District's coming year's goals and activities. One of Rick's first official duties as District Governor was to attend the dedication of the Elkins Gold Star Family Memorial Monument that was held on July 5th, at the Elkins Veterans Memorial Park. He was back just a week later for the official DG club visit.

He gave an overview of the state of membership in Rotary in the District 7545 clubs. While some clubs have lost membership in the past five years, many clubs, including the Rotary Club of Elkins, have been able to maintain or increase membership.



Let's Connect:



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