

DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary
District 7545



IN THIS ISSUE:

**FROM THE DISTRICT
CALENDAR**

**EMERGING LEADERS
2025**

**RLI IN OUR WILD,
WONDERFUL, & WIDE
DISTRICT**

**CELEBRATING RLI
ALUMNI**

**ELKINS ROTARY CLUB
WELCOMES KHAN**

**DISTRICT GRANT &
FOUNDATION
CELEBRATION**

MONTHLY THEME:

**BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY**

NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Believe it or not September is here already, and this month's Rotary theme is "Basic Education and Literacy."

Did you know that there are more than 775 million people over the age of 15 who are illiterate, which is 17 percent of the world's adult population?

Based on 2023-24 figures, the Rotary Foundation contributed a substantial number of global grants to remedy this problem. Specifically, 107 grants with total funding of \$107 million were dedicated to the Basic Education and Literacy Focus Area. Likewise, our District last year aligned over half of its twenty-seven grant requests with this month's theme. Those requests varied in scope and type but generally associated with the following topics: funding dictionary projects, increasing the enrollment rate of disadvantaged children in the imagination library program, supporting various scholarship programs, providing new books to every kindergarten student every month during the school year, purchasing and distributing atlases, etc.

As we review last month's District grant requests, I'm sure we will see a similar pattern which heavily favors projects directly addressing this Focus Area at the club and community level. Conversely, if your club is not actively pursuing a program of this nature, this month would be an excellent opportunity to do so.

(Continues on pg2.)

In keeping with my promise to continually “talk membership” at every opportunity, I want to reiterate my belief in the proven membership attraction Gold Standard which is “Discover Rotary”. Last month, I reacquainted Club Presidents with these tools and I’m now sharing them below with a wider audience:

[Who Do You Know Worksheet](#)

[Discover Rotary Brief](#)

Don’t reinvent the wheel. Please use these valuable resources during your future membership attraction events. They produce positive results!

Finally, a comment on club visits. As of last month, sixteen District Governor club visits were conducted or almost a third of our total number. Although Rotary International Bylaws stipulate that District Governors will conduct, “an official visit to each club, individually or in multi-club meetings,...”, I would have done so without this directive. In my previous life I had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout this country and the world... but not West Virginia. These club visits fill that void, which is why I look forward to seeing our Rotarians where they meet throughout this great State!

Yours in Rotary Service,

Rick



FROM THE DISTRICT CALENDAR

Upcoming Club Visits

The following clubs are scheduled for visits by the District Governor during the next two months.

Bluefield: 9/18

Princeton: 9/19

Braxton County: 9/24

Huntington: 9/29

Ripley & Point Pleasant: 10/1

Cheat Lake: 10/7

Morgantown North: 10/8

Morgantown: 10/9

South Charleston: 10/16

Brooke County & Weirton

& Weirton Heights: 10/23

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



EMERGING LEADERS 2025

On Sep 10-11, 2025, three District 7545 Rotarians will attend the Zones 33-34 Summit as participants in the Emerging Leaders Learning Seminar. Representing the District are:

- Jonathan Grose (Rotary Club of Beckley)
- Brandon Palmeri (Rotary Club of Weirton Heights)
- Sarah Woodrum (Rotary Club of Morgantown)
- Kerry Gnik (Rotary Club of Kingwood) was selected as an Alternate.

Districts are encouraged to submit up to three nominees who must have served a complete term as president of a Rotary Club, have some involvement at the district level either currently or in the past, and have been an active Rotarian for at least three years. (This year, the District received permission to submit four nominees, all of which were later designated by a Zone selection board as either primary or alternative attendees).

This Seminar will feature two lively days of activities, presentations and facilitated conversations to include team-building exercises, interactive learning sessions on Rotary, and opportunities to learn from a panel of Rotary Leaders and one another.

Nominations for next year's Emerging Leader Learning Seminar will likely occur in April 2026 to recognize individuals who demonstrate leadership potential, creativity, adaptability, and commitment to growth. District leadership understands that developing emerging leaders is essential for ensuring long-term success and is creating a plan to provide a structured approach to identify, nurture, and empower individuals with the potential to take on leadership roles. The intent is to develop organizational leaders and create advocates for Rotary International programs and services. Congratulations to this year's District 7545 Emerging Leaders!

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI) IN OUR WILD, WONDERFUL, & *WIDE* DISTRICT

At RLI, our purpose is to give you the necessary tools and skills to be better Rotarians. As in every endeavor, the more you know about anything, the more interesting it becomes. Rotary is certainly one of those areas that the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. RLI can make that possible for you. You will learn communication skills, community service planning, strategic planning, membership development, public image; and just how does the Rotary Foundation work, anyway? And there's more!

Sounds great! When can I sign up, you ask. Well, I can answer that. There is an RLI event in the Charleston, WV area on September 20th. Wait, "Why Charleston?" is your next question. The answer is that we have not had an event in that part of the state for a while. In case you hadn't noticed, our district is VERY spread out. Just ask our District Governors who travel to almost every corner. Recent events have been in Beaver, Lewisburg, and Fairmont. We try to be 45 minutes to an hour's drive from lots of different clubs in our District when we choose a location. We also have to coordinate the schedules of 10 or so different facilitators who travel across the state and are committed to helping you grow in Rotary and in life.

Why am I telling you this? It is important you sign up for RLI now. Don't wait for an event to be at your back door because our district is so very "wide." Every Rotarian in our district who has not already completed all three levels of RLI has received emails from me with a personalized registration link. If you cannot find those emails, simply contact me at jane.bg.stout@gmail.com and I will happily send you another. You will certainly find that Sept. 20 is a day well spent!

CELEBRATING RLI ALUMNI



The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) launched the RLI Alumni program with a celebration of approximately 70 Alumni at the Mid-Atlantic RLI Summer Meeting July 11-12 in North Carolina. An awesome resource for new, as well as more experienced Rotarians, RLI provides a variety of learning opportunities - now with the additional benefit of becoming an Alumni after completing the first training course!

As explained by Laurie Reuben, RLI courses are open to all Rotarians - whether or not they are an officer or are considering an official role in their Club or District. "One of the benefits of being a Rotarian is that you have access to leadership training - the beauty is that it is provided in the context of your Rotary experience, which makes it instantly applicable." Laurie, who recently began serving as the RLI District Chair

(District 7620) explained that she "came late to the RLI training program". A member of Rotary for 15 years, she was president of her club in 2015-16 and continues as an active Rotarian in her current club in Columbia, Maryland. She completed her RLI training last year, as she became increasingly involved in District-level activities, and she is now taking RLI graduate courses.

There are over 3,000 alumni in the Mid-Atlantic region. Through the training - and now through RLI Alumni events - there are many opportunities for people to connect with people from other clubs. "You might have, for example, Rotarians from different parts of the region who find that they share similar interests, such as peace, health or farming, and then they continue to exchange information and ideas following the training." As Laurie explained, "What I found at the summer meeting is that this is a highly passionate group of people who are engaged. They want to know how they can make the biggest impact in helping people to understand that RLI is for everybody..."

What does it mean to be an RLI Alumni? Alums are asked to actively promote future RLI classes - attending them, bringing others along with them, and talking about RLI at club meetings. "We want to make sure that people know that RLI exists and not only for those who are planning to be an officer." RLI is for those who want to take a deeper dive into what Rotary is and how they can connect with their own clubs and with the other layers that make up Rotary.

The Alumni celebration was held at the summer meeting along with other events, including RLI I-III training, and Graduate, and New Faculty courses. In the future, RLI Alumni will continue to be represented at joint gatherings of clubs and districts. For example, at the Joint District Conference on October 3-5 (Districts 7620 and 7610), you can learn more about the alumni group at the RLI Table at the House of Friendship. Going forward, Alumni will be celebrated at both summer and winter Mid-Atlantic RLI meetings, with the next time being at the Winter Meeting in January, 2026.

"We have a lot of leadership skills in Rotary through the RLI alums. We want to make sure we are highlighting those skills and learning from our RLI alums...that their expertise is welcome and appreciated as we navigate leadership issues."

Information about the Mid-Atlantic RLI and upcoming training dates are available [here](#).



THE ROTARY CLUB OF WESTON'S EXTENSIVE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT EFFORTS

Club President, Hollie Vaughn explains her Club's commitment as follows:

"We have adopted the "least of these" in the world's eyes. Projects and needs were brought to our attention through personal and community connections. We do several projects a year for Sharpe Hospital, Crestview Manor, and Genesis Youth Home such as Birthday Bags, Christmas Gifts, Easter Baskets, Happy Mail and many other projects.

We have had Club Members travel to Colombia where we provided a water purification system to the local hospital and assisted living facilities. Another international project was in Panama where several of our members traveled. There we supplied a solar panel to a remote, indigenous village where no electricity is available.

Our passion is for the youth in our community, and we try to host a handful of free events that are interactive and fun. "



Rotary Club of Weston

SERVICE PROJECTS

CURRENT	2024-2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly CoRRN Recovery Meeting Pricetown Blessings Box (Hygiene Bag) Thank You Cards for the Honor Flight Children's Tie Dye Bash Rocking With Rotary (Crestview Porch) LCHS Open House (Refreshments) Community Coupon Class Teacher Appreciation Giveaway Jackson's Mill Jubilee Gate Keepers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank You Cards for the Honor Flight Reading With Rotary (Book Drive) Jackson's Mill Jubilee Gate Keepers Sharpe Hospital Blessing Bags Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Building Community Baby Shower (Diaper Drive) SMH Fall Blood Analysis SMH Child's Safety Fair H&M Trunk or Treat Hometown Hunger Challenge 2.0 Warm Up With Rotary (Blessings Tree) CT Children's Christmas Crestview Adopt a Resident Blessing Basket for the Arbors Beat The Blizzard Blues Random Acts of Kindness Month Sharpe Sweet Treat Valentines Crestview Sweet Treat Valentines Power Panama (Solar Panels) Gifts for Panamanian Children Food for Panamanian Families Panama Building Project Awards for Youth Basketball Sponsorship for Youth Football Duffie Bag Drive (Geneva Youth) Crestview Resident Easter Baskets Lewis County First and Rotary BINGO Flower Garden at Crestview SMH Spring Blood Analysis Rotary College Scholarships Boys/Girls State Sponsorship Paper Product Drive (Fisher Camp) Pet Blanket Making Party (Shetter) CoRRN Recovery Meeting (Snacks) Reading With Rotary (Energy Express) Youth Baseball Concession

UNITE FOR GOOD

ELKINS ROTARY CLUB WELCOMES KHAN

The Rotary Club of Elkins welcomed physician Dr. Farukh Khan to its membership. A long-time member of the Elkins community Khan's practice focuses on family and emergency medicine.

Khan is an avid pickleball player, capturing a gold medal in the US Senior Games in Pittsburgh in 2023.

Tammie Rizzio, executive director of Youth Health Service, Elkins Rotary Club's immediate past president, and current Area Governor sponsored Khan's Rotary membership.

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in their communities, and in themselves.



BECKLEY CLUB GOES TO THE DOGS

In July, Club President, Jonathan Grose and Grants Chair, Caroline Smith presented a check totaling \$7,500 to the Beckley Police Departments' K9 Unit to partially fund their newest K9 officer, Luna. Luna was assigned to Beckley PD and her Officer back in June, with the help of K9 Training International. With grant funds through the LEAP program, a generous donation from City Bank, and the fundraising amongst the Beckley Rotary Club membership, the cost for K9 Luna is less than 50% covered. Additional grants are in works to assist with the remaining costs.

While working on this project, Beckley Rotary has learned a great deal about the K9 unit and its efforts to protect and serve the community. With no formal budget for the K9 program, assistance is greatly needed at this time. Additional donations towards this program are needed, as the BPD hopes to purchase an additional dog to complete the K9 unit. A grant through Raleigh County and the WV First Foundation is in the works to hopefully fund the additional K9 officer.



2025 DISTRICT GRANTS & WORLD POLIO DAY



Important updates are underway for our District! Now that the deadline for District Grant applications closed on August 31, 2025, we are in the process of reviewing those submissions.

Looking ahead, World Polio Day is October 24, and now is the perfect time to begin planning a fundraiser to support Rotary's fight to end polio. With the loss of the USAID as well as massive funding cuts through US programming and to the World Health Organization, your contributions are more important than ever!

END POLIO NOW

Let's Connect:



www.rotarydistrict7545.org

rotarydistrict7545@gmail.com