

DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary
District 7545



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NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

What an experience these last few weeks have been as Pat and I finished visiting almost all our Clubs in the District. This has truly been an incomparable highlight! Although I had traveled the world extensively, I had not seen very much of West Virginia. That is no longer the case! Out travel log indicates that we covered many miles on our country roads! This has been an incredibly rewarding experience seeing where “the magic happens” at the club-level. Which reminds me that for those who would like to have a similar experience, I invite you to read DGE Julie Sawyer’s article regarding nominations for our District Governor Nominee Designate that are due this month. In sum, if you know of someone or if you want to “throw your hat into the ring”, please talk with your Club President.

If you have not yet seen membership growth in your Rotary Club, it is not too late to have a discussion within your Club. Please pay particular attention to Sam McDaniel’s (District Membership Chair) article regarding the many useful membership tools available in the Membership Success Center elsewhere in this Newsletter. By the way, several Clubs have achieved significant membership growth according to our most recent updates as of Nov 1, 2025;

Rotary Club of Ceredo Kenova	3 new members, 27% growth
Rotary Club of Wheeling	10 new members, 22% growth
Mountain State E-Club	2 new members, 22% growth
Rotary Club of Milton	4 new members, 20% growth
Rotary Club of Bluefield	6 new members, 19% growth
Rotary Club of Morgantown North	4 new members, 12% growth
Rotary Club of Grafton	6 new members, 10% growth



December is also a great month to evaluate your progress on Foundation giving while there's still time to benefit from the year-end tax advantage. Consider becoming a sustaining member of the Rotary Foundation by contributing \$100 a year or, if you are already a sustaining member, consider joining those of us that are Paul Harris Society members. Every contribution helps, regardless of size, so give what fits your circumstances. It's easy to do, just click here: <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>

As we finish the Club visits, our attention turns to the District Conference later in the year as well as completing various Action Plans we identified during our District Visioning Event in February 2025. We'll also support DGE Julie Sawyer's efforts in April 2026 at Bridgeport, WV to prepare our Area Governors, incoming Club Presidents and Membership Chairs for their roles in the next Rotary year.

Allow me to close this month's message in recognition of the holiday season. Regardless of your religious beliefs, this time of year is an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the many blessings we receive.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

The Membership Success Center (MSC) is a fantastic tool available to clubs to assist with club growth. It is accessed via DACdb by clicking on the "District" tab and then the Membership Success Center icon. The Membership Action Plan (MAP) is a database within the MSC that clubs can utilize to aid in club growth. Once in the MAP Membership Success Center, there are several menu selections available to assist clubs in completing various tasks. The primary menu selections are summarized below:

Membership Goal

- Enables a club to enter their growth goal for the Rotary year.
- Calculates the anticipated number of members the club will lose based on the club's average annual attrition rate over the past three years.
- Calculates the number of new members needed to reach the growth goal when the anticipated attrition is factored in.
- Identifies the problems the club needs to solve: Insufficient Attraction, High Attrition, both, or neither.
- A "View Recommended Strategies" button is available to assist clubs in solving their attraction and/or attrition problem(s) by providing recommendations and resources.

Progress Dashboard

- Enables clubs to monitor their New Member Attraction Pace to determine if they are adding new members at a pace that will enable them to meet their growth goal.

Club Membership Growth Plan

- Enables clubs to download and complete a Club Membership Growth Plan template to ensure success as a healthy, vibrant Rotary club with consistent, moderate membership growth.
- The template will assist in identifying Essential Areas and the strategies and actions for success in the areas.
- Upon completion, the plan can be uploaded into MAP.

Surveys

- Provides clubs with a Club Satisfaction Survey for the purpose of determining what your members are looking for, which enhances their engagement, resulting in improvement of their club experience and keeping members on board.
- The survey can be distributed by pmail with results being compiled by the MSC for easy analysis.
- It's recommended that Club Satisfaction Surveys be conducted annually.

Sam McDaniel

DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE-DESIGNATE: '28-'29 NOMINATIONS



To learn more about Julie and the District Leadership team, head over to www.rotarydistrict7545.org.

As we enter the mid-point of the Rotary year, we'd like to take a moment to highlight our 2026 - 2027 District Governor Elect and to solicit your nominations for the District Governor Nominee-Designate (DGND) are open until December 31, 2025. The selected individual will serve as District Governor of Rotary International District 7545 during the 2028-29 Rotary year.

If you know a Rotarian who should be considered for this important leadership role, please inform your Club President. The District Nominating Committee will convene in January to interview all nominated candidates and choose our next DGND. The name of the chosen nominee will be announced in February.

Our District is also excited for the dedicated and longstanding commitment that our DG Elect, Julie Sawyer will bring to our District.

Julie is a retired educator and administrator with a long career in public service, complemented by extensive leadership within Rotary at the club, district, and zone levels. She is deeply committed to community service, philanthropy, and advancing Rotary's mission of goodwill and peace. Alongside her volunteer work, she supports local nonprofits focused on disability services and suicide prevention.

ROTARY CLUB OF KINGWOOD TURNS 100!

The Rotary Club of Kingwood is thrilled to invite Rotarians from across the district to celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The centennial celebration will be held on Sunday, December 28th in Morgantown, WV.

To RSVP, please email rotaryclubofkingwood@gmail.com. Please include your name and name of any guests. An invoice will be emailed to you. Menu, the night's schedule, and other details can also be requested at the email above.

RSVPs are requested on or before December 12, 2025.



ROTARY IN DECEMBER: ADVANCING DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Each December, Rotary International lifts up one of its core Areas of Focus: Disease Prevention and Treatment. This theme feels especially urgent today, as communities across the United States confront new outbreaks of diseases once considered rare and well-controlled.

In recent months, measles cases have risen in multiple states, with many linked to individuals who were unvaccinated or whose vaccination status was unknown. Tuberculosis has also seen an unexpected increase, reaching its highest national levels in more than a decade.

These developments are reminders that progress in public health is never guaranteed.



Even with advanced medicine, prevention remains our strongest tool.

Research continues to evolve, offering promising methods such as wastewater monitoring to identify outbreaks earlier. Yet scientific progress can be slowed by funding limitations, regulatory timelines, and public misunderstanding. While researchers do their part, community-based organizations like Rotary play a critical role in making prevention tangible – through education, access, and trust-building.

A unique challenge today is the growing social popularity of vaccine hesitancy. Rather than approaching this as a political topic, Rotary can address it from a community-service standpoint: people need clear information, accessible healthcare, and trusted voices. Misinformation spreads quickly, but so can reassurance when it comes from local leaders, neighbors, and volunteers.

This month, Rotarians can take meaningful action by partnering with health departments for screenings, hosting vaccine-education events, supporting immunization drives, or funding innovative research efforts. These initiatives echo Rotary's long legacy of strengthening public health, from fighting polio to expanding maternal and child health care worldwide.

As disease patterns shift and new challenges emerge, Rotary's December theme is more than a reminder – it's a call to service. By championing prevention, supporting treatment, and fostering trust, Rotarians continue to help build healthier, more resilient communities at home and across the globe.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: THE ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH CHARLESTON

In 2016, the Rotary Club of South Charleston launched its Backpack Buddy Program, providing weekend meal bags to food-insecure students at Richmond Elementary School in South Charleston. At the time, the program began by serving 40 students, ensuring that those children would have access to nutritious food beyond the school week. Over the past decade, the program has grown significantly as the need has increased. Today, Rotarians (and community volunteers) meet once a month to pack enough meal bags to feed more than 100 students each week during the school year. As participation has grown, so have the costs – more than doubling since the program began.

Despite these challenges, the South Charleston Rotary Club remains committed to sustaining and strengthening this vital effort.



Over the years, the Club has held food drives, golf tournaments, and other fundraisers to help finance its efforts. In 2023, the Club applied for grants to support the Backpack Buddy Program (as well as the Club's other community service efforts). The Backpack Buddy Program continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of South Charleston's children thanks to community support, donations, grants (including generous ones from District 7545) and the dedication of its members.

FROM THE DISTRICT CALENDAR

The following clubs are scheduled for visits by the District Governor this month.

Charleston: 12/8

Newburg Centennial: 12/28

Plus, save the dates for the District Conference and this Springs' RLI series in Fairmont.

Keynote Speaker
DISTRICT CONFERENCE
MAY 29-30, 2026
Registration Opening Soon!

RAMESH FERRIS

Experience this powerful presentation alongside Rotarians from across District 7545 at the District Conference at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, WV

Rotary District 7545

We're this close to ending polio

SAVE THE DATE
RLI PARTS I, II, III

FAIRMONT, WV

MARCH 28, 2026

Registration is open now!

Go to midatlanticrli.org

DISTRICT GRANTS FUND 22 CLUBS

The 2025 District 7545 Grant Committee considered project applications from across the state. This year, the District Fund was able to fund all twenty-two club projects, totaling over \$33,500 to help better our community and continuing the mission of Rotary International. Projects also span the seven areas of focus and Rotary 4-way test.

Funded projects are connected to the following clubs:

<i>Barboursville</i>	<i>Fairmont</i>	<i>Peterstown</i>	<i>Weirton</i>
<i>Beckley</i>	<i>Grafton</i>	<i>Princeton</i>	<i>Weirton Heights</i>
<i>Buckhannon Upshur</i>	<i>Morgantown</i>	<i>Mountain State Rotary E-Club</i>	<i>Weston</i>
<i>Charleston</i>	<i>Moundsville</i>	<i>Spencer</i>	<i>Wheeling</i>
<i>Elkins</i>	<i>Parkersburg</i>	<i>Summersville</i>	

Clubs with District funded projects that have already been completed can submit their final project report at any time, however all projects must be completed and have final reports submitted by May 31, 2026.

For questions or support, reach out to District Foundation Chair, Lauren Thomas at grants@rotarydistrict7545.org.

THE ROTARY PEACE GAME

Last month, an exciting new peace initiative was launched in Zone 33-34 and across Rotary. Called the Rotary Peace Game, it is an action-oriented framework that weaves the Four-Way Test into seven peace practices. Each peace practice strengthens Rotarians' ability to directly express their values, enhance their personal development, strengthen their Club, and improve their community. It is Rotary lived consciously! The Four-Way Test in action—practical, structured, service-driven.

Two District 7545 Clubs participated in last month's Zone 33-34 Rotary Peace Game which consisted of 57 people from 12 states and 3 countries. It is part of a larger Peace Moonshot initiative that our Rotary International Board member, Patrick Eakes, is championing in Zones 33/34 and globally. He offers his thoughts about it in this short inspiring [video](#). Check it out.

If this is something that interests you, then you are invited to bring the Rotary Peace Game to your Club. You can learn more by attending the Rotary Peace Game Facilitator Training on December 11 from 12 to 2 pm ET. Use this link [here](#) to register.



Let's Connect:



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