

# DISTRICT PULSE



**Rotary**  
District 7545



*District 7545, Moundsville Rotary Club*

*IN THIS ISSUE:*

**NOTE FROM THE  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

**FROM THE DISTRICT  
CALENDAR**

**GIVE THE GIFT OF  
ROTARY**

**HOMETOWN HUNGER  
CHALLENGE**

**GROW ROTARY,  
GROW IMPACT**

**THE POWER OF  
VOCATIONAL SERVICE  
IN ROTARY**

**WEIRTON ROTARY  
CLUB'S DONATION**

**NOTE OF CORRECTION**

**RI 2026 CONVENTION**

**MONTHLY THEME:  
VOCATIONAL SERVICE**

## **NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

Happy New Year! Welcome to January 2026. Hopefully, you were able to spend time with friends and family and are ready to fully embrace the last six months of our Rotary year.

January is Vocational Service month. Please note the excellent article "The Power of Vocational Service in Rotary" included in this newsletter. The article's last two sentences are an excellent summary: "When we use our vocations to serve, we amplify Rotary's impact. Vocational Service transforms everyday work into an opportunity to do good proving that service above self starts right where we are."

Transitioning to my favorite topic of membership: With half the year behind us and half ahead, now is the time to connect the dots regarding where we are membership wise and where we want to be. But first, I'd like to highlight some good news. As most of you may know, historically, December finds clubs updating their membership records prior to receiving Rotary International's January invoice usually resulting in membership losses. While we did suffer some loss, the numbers were nowhere near the projections which could mean that those phone calls you made in December to infrequent attenders made a difference. Regardless of the reason, let's recommit to proven attraction strategies while ensuring membership engagement practices keep our attrition low. So, let's use January as a time to reevaluate progress against our clubs' membership goals for this Rotary year and make it a priority to make any needed adjustments to ensure achievement of those goals.

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In addition, I will continue reaching out to clubs that I have visited to conduct follow on zoom sessions which include the District Membership Chair, Club Presidents and Club Membership Chairs to discuss Club Membership Plans. I can't think of a better way to signify our interest in achieving consistent, moderate club membership growth.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Rick

## FROM THE DISTRICT CALENDAR

The following club is scheduled for a visit by the District Governor this month:  
Charleston: 1/12

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

SAVE THE DATE  
**RLI PARTS I, II, III**  
FAIRMONT, WV  
MARCH 28, 2026  
Registration is open now!  
Go to [midatlanticrli.org](http://midatlanticrli.org)

And as we enter 2026, the countdown to the District Conference begins! In less than 150 days, join your fellow District 7545 Rotarians for fellowship, knowledge, and to plan for the Rotary year ahead. The registration link will open soon. Conference dates are May 29-30, in Kingwood, WV.

Rotary District 7545  
*Extraordinary Evenings: One to Listen, One to Savor!*  
Registration Opening Soon!  
2026 District Conference  
May 29-30  
Camp Dawson - Kingwood, WV

Mark Palmer has been performing live around the North Central West Virginia region for longer than he cares to mention. His mix of acoustic guitar and piano-based classic rock from the 60's through 2000's appeals to a wide range of ages and tastes. Catch his set on Friday night of the conference outside on the patio surrounded by the beautiful West Virginia mountains and the untamed Cheat River.

Meet Chef Craig Frazee! Saturday night's dinner will be prepared by this fabulous and creative chef. Trained under the famous Chef Wolfgang Puck, Craig's cuisine is both elevated and innovative. Craig's meals feature globally inspired dishes with locally sourced ingredients. He is the chef/owner of Brewery and the Beast in Accident, Maryland.

Rotary District 7545  
Two Voices.  
**ONE POWERFUL EXPERIENCE.**  
2026 District Conference  
May 30, 2026 | 8 AM  
Camp Dawson - Kingwood, WV  
Stay tuned for registration information!

Patrick Eakes  
Director 2024-26  
Rotary International  
Zones 33/34

Gregor Baum  
Author of  
*The Rotary Mindset*

END POLIO NOW

Keynote Speaker: Ramesh Ferris, polio survivor & advocate

## GIVE THE GIFT OF ROTARY



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

**Rotary E-Club of District 7545**

The E-Club of District 7545 (also known as the Mountain State Rotary E-Club or MSRE) is offering a unique opportunity to share Rotary membership with immediate family members. The District Governor recently gifted his three adult children with membership certificates. They will ultimately decide whether to maintain their membership but, in the interim, they will be introduced to all the things Rotary has to offer both via the MSRE and Rotary clubs in their local areas. Although the Holiday Season has passed, there are certainly other occasions to share this gift.

**Please see below for more information:**

Give the Gift of Rotary to your immediate family members; for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, other occasions, or just because it is the thing to do!

Contact e-Club Membership Chair: [Send Email to Rick Phalunas | E-Club of District 7545](#) This Contact link is also on the e-Club website: [msre.org](http://msre.org)

Encouraging an immediate family member to submit an application directly: [New Member Form](#)

**Eligibility:** Immediate family members (in-laws included) of active Rotarians in District 7545. Geographic location of family members is not limited (in the US or globally), as long as there is internet access available.

**MSRE membership fee:** \$200/year (prorated) for two years. (Full membership fee of \$300/year thereafter.)

**Information about the e-Club commitment to Service and Fellowship:** Service Projects | E-Club of District 7545; Discover Rotary e-Club program on website: Discover Rotary | E-Club of District 7545

## HOMETOWN HUNGER CHALLENGE 2025

On Nov. 15, fifty Rotarians and friends of Rotary came together at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church to fight hunger. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Grafton, the event also included clubs from Barbour County, Kingwood, Newburg, Clarksburg and Fairmont. Working together, they packed enough cinnamon apple oatmeal fortified with vitamins and minerals to feed 10,000 people, all while having fun and making new friends! These meals have been donated to at least 10 different food pantries in 5 counties, to be distributed to families suffering food insecurity. This event was funded by the Grafton Rotary and The Rotary Foundation.



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## GROW ROTARY, GROW IMPACT

As we head into the second half of the Rotary year, there's a new resource designed to help clubs attract new members, re-engage the community, and explore fresh growth opportunities: the North American Club Creation Team (NACCT) application.

This free app supports clubs by helping them identify membership growth opportunities, explore innovative club formats, guide new or satellite club conversations, and access real-time support from trained specialists.

Two ways your club can benefit:

- Discover Rotary Sessions - A simple, high-impact way to introduce Rotary to prospective members, showcase your club's impact, and generate new interest, with planning and follow-up support from NACCT.
- Club Refresh & Innovation Support - Guidance for clubs ready to try flexible meetings, hybrid options, satellite clubs, or new service-focused approaches while keeping their core identity strong.

January is a natural moment for growth with new-year momentum. To get started, download the app by searching "North American Club Creation Team." This practical support will help your club get a jump start on 2026 and beyond.



# THE POWER OF VOCATIONAL SERVICE IN ROTARY



Vocational Service is at the heart of what makes Rotary unique. It reminds us that our professions are not just careers, but powerful tools for creating positive change. By applying our skills, expertise, and ethical standards in service to others, Rotarians strengthen communities and inspire trust in the workplace.

Through mentoring, career development programs, ethical leadership, and hands-on projects, Vocational Service bridges the gap between professional life and community impact. Whether it's guiding young people toward meaningful careers, supporting local entrepreneurs, or upholding high ethical standards through the Four-Way Test, Rotarians lead by example.

When we use our vocations to serve, we amplify Rotary's impact. Vocational Service transforms everyday work into an opportunity to do good proving that service above self starts right where we are.

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## WEIRTON ROTARY CLUB'S DONATION

Next summer, Marland Heights Park in Weirton will be getting a fresh new look—and a lot more play—thanks to a partnership rooted in service and community pride.

The Weirton Rotary Club recently presented a \$25,000 check to help transform the park's tennis courts into a shared space featuring one tennis court and four dedicated pickleball courts. This is the first installment of Rotary's commitment, which will total up to \$50,000 and include naming rights for the courts.

This project brings together Rotary, city leadership, Parks officials, and the Weirton Pickleball Association to meet a growing recreational need in our community. Pickleball has taken off locally, with dozens of players regularly gathering, and the new courts will finally provide a permanent, high-quality home for the sport.

For Rotary, this investment is about more than courts—it's about creating spaces where people connect, stay active, and build community. We're excited to see this project completed and to watch Marland Heights Park become an even more vibrant gathering place for Weirton and the region.



## NOTE OF CORRECTION

In the December edition of the District Pulse, an article noting those clubs who were awarded a 2025/2026 District 7545 Foundation Grant unintentionally left off one club; Huntington Rotary Club. Additionally, if there are questions about the District grant, those who received it or any other foundation questions, they can be sent to [districtgrants7545@gmail.com](mailto:districtgrants7545@gmail.com).

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## 2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

### Build Connection in Taipei

Make new connections and create unforgettable memories at the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei City, where traditional and contemporary culture intertwine beautifully. Unsure what awaits you at a Rotary International Convention? Explore articles, videos, and photos from [past conventions](#) for a sense of their inspirational power. In Taipei, you'll join fellow changemakers from around the world to share innovative projects, exchange best practices, and form enduring friendships. The convention is packed with exciting breakout sessions, speakers, and [more](#).

Discover Taipei's many charms and find more opportunities to connect by [registering for the Host Organization Committee's Signature Events](#).

Unite for Good with us at the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, 13-17 June 2026. To register, head over to the Rotary International website, or [HERE](#).



Let's Connect:



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