

DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary
District 7545



District 7545, Conference Golf Scramble

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JUNE THEME:
celebrating the international
friendships, goodwill, and
connections built among Rotarians

NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Our signature District 7545 event occurred last weekend, and I was VERY pleased with its results. Thanks to the invaluable efforts of District Conference Chair Kerry Gnik and her very capable staff, it was flawlessly organized and professionally conducted.

Approximately 130 Rotarians attended the two-day event.

A multi-team golf scramble started our activities Friday morning with the Rotary Club of Cheat Lake claiming the traveling trophy. The evening included more friendly competitions with the backdrop of great music while everyone connected and enjoyed the perfect weather.

Saturday morning included our Parade of Club Flags, insightful speakers, Foundation Recognition Awards, and the *In Memoriam* presentation for Rotary members who passed. After free time to explore the area or relax with friends, the more formal evening events took place. Our featured speaker and fellow District Governor, Ramesh Ferris from District 5370, a polio survivor, provided a very moving and thoughtful presentation on his personal journey from India where he contracted the disease, to his home in Canada and his ongoing efforts to bring awareness to polio eradication.

Club and Individual Awards followed his presentation. Our event concluded with the installation of DGE Julie Sawyer from the Rotary Club of Fairmont as our District Governor for Rotary Year 2026-2027. Patrick Eakes, our Zone 33-34 Director, presided over the Installation. Julie has been part of the District Governor chain for the past two years, and she is exceptionally qualified for her new role.

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I look forward to supporting Julie as the immediate Previous District Governor and as District Membership Chair.

June is Rotary Fellowship Month. A Rotary Fellowship is an international group that shares a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, or just enhance your Rotary experience. The Rotary International website currently lists 112 Fellowships. Learn more about Rotary Fellowships and see the list of existing Fellowships [HERE](#).

Before ending my service as your District Governor this month, Pat and I will travel to the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan. While visiting this city and meeting Rotarians from around the world, we will share our common desire to do good in our communities and the world.

As I reflect on last year, I am most thankful for this unique opportunity to serve as your District Governor. The club visits were truly the year's highlight as I was able to see you where you meet while discovering parts of this great State I had not seen before. We have made progress this year regarding membership growth, with several clubs receiving Zone recognition for consecutive years of growth, but there are too many struggling clubs with little or no growth. I encourage you to collaborate with your Assistant Governors and the District Leadership Team to assist those clubs that need assistance.

With only a few weeks left in my tenure, I am both proud of our accomplishments and enthusiastic for what lies ahead as we move forward as a district. Thank you for all your support throughout this Rotary year and for what you will do to support DG Julie and her team in Rotary Year 2026- 2027. Pat and I look forward to contributing to the district's future success.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Rick, DG
District 7545



ROTARY YEAR 2025 - 2026 DISTRICT AWARDS

Congratulations to the outstanding Rotarians and clubs recognized at the Rotary District 7545 Annual Conference for their dedication to service and leadership throughout the year. Award recipients included Wrenna Dorrer of the Harrison County Rotary Club, who received the District Youth Services Award; Kerry Gnik of the Kingwood Rotary Club, honored with the District Service Above Self Award; and Jane Stout of the Princeton Rotary Club, named District Rotarian of the Year.

Several clubs were also recognized for their achievements. The Cheat Lake Rotary Club received the District Club Public Image Pacesetter Award, the Canyon Rim Rotary Club earned the District Membership Growth Award, the Ripley Rotary Club was honored as the District Most Improved Club, and the Buckhannon Upshur Rotary Club was named District Club of the Year.

We celebrate these individuals and clubs for their commitment to Rotary's mission of Service Above Self and for the positive impact they continue to make in their communities.

MESSAGE FROM INCOMING DISTRICT GOVERNOR JULIE:

Thank You, Rick

As we approach the start of a new Rotary year, I want to take a moment to thank Rick for his outstanding service as District Governor. Throughout the past year, he has led our District with dedication, integrity, and a deep commitment to Rotary's mission.

Rick's leadership has strengthened our Clubs, inspired our members, and helped position our District for continued success. On behalf of Rotarians across the District, thank you for your hard work, your friendship, and the countless hours you have devoted to serving others.

As I prepare to begin my term as District Governor on July 1, I am both honored and excited for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to building on the foundation Rick has established and working alongside all of you as we continue to make a difference in our communities and around the world. Thank you, Rick, for a remarkable year of leadership and service.



FROM THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS TO THE WORLD: CELEBRATING ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS



June celebrates Rotary Fellowships—international groups that bring together Rotarians who share common interests, hobbies, professions, and passions. From hiking and photography to public health, veterans' service, and business networking, Rotary Fellowships create opportunities to build friendships that extend far beyond club and district boundaries. Rotary currently recognizes more than 100 fellowships, helping members connect, learn, and serve alongside like-minded people around the world.

For Rotarians in West Virginia and Appalachia, the spirit of fellowship may feel especially familiar. Whether gathering around a campfire, exploring the mountains, hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail, or working together to strengthen our communities, fellowship has long been at the heart of our region's culture. This month, take time to celebrate the connections that make Rotary stronger and explore a Rotary Fellowship that aligns with your interests.

DISTRICT 7545 2026 CONFERENCE IN PHOTOS



DISCOVER ROTARY



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER ANNUAL REFRESH

STAY
TUNED

As July 1 approaches, so does the start of a new Rotary year and a new chapter under District Governor Julie's leadership. To help keep our finger on the pulse of the district, the District Pulse will be receiving its annual refresh. Just as our clubs evolve to meet the needs of their communities, our district communications should reflect the goals, aspirations, and activities that drive Rotary across our region. Look for updated features, fresh content, and new ways to stay connected as we begin an exciting year of service together.

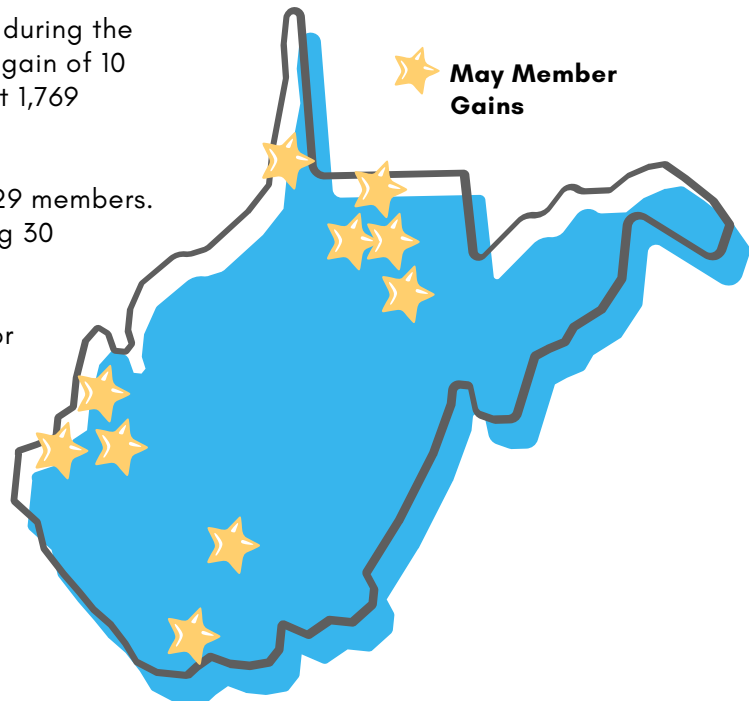
MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

District 7545 had a net loss of 1 member during the month of May, resulting in an overall net gain of 10 members as of June 2nd. We now stand at 1,769 members.

Ten clubs had net gains in May totaling 29 members. Three clubs had net losses in May totaling 30 members.

Congratulations to the following clubs for having net gains in May:

Canyon Rim: 9 New Members
Huntington: 4 New Members
Moundsville: 4 New Members
Cheat Lake: 3 New Members
Buckhannon Upshur: 2 New Members
Parkersburg: 2 New Members
Putnam County: 2 New Members
Bluefield: 1 New Member
Grafton: 1 New Member
South Fairmont: 1 New Member



CLUB HIGHLIGHT: ROTARY CLUB OF MADISON

The Rotary Club of Madison recently conducted their pancake breakfast held on Saturday, May 2, 2026 which raised \$1,800.00 to assist with the Club's College Scholarship Program. The event was held in the cafeteria of Scott High School.



Rotarians began arriving at 6:00 am, opened for breakfast at 7:00 am and worked until 11:00 am, serving pancakes, sausage, and bacon. To date the Rotary Club of Madison has presented six \$1000 scholarships to area students.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE SERVICE PROJECT BENEFITS VETERANS



On May 29 and 30, 2026, District Rotarians responded to the Tech 4 Troops request to donate useable electronic equipment as the District's Community Service Project associated with our annual District Conference at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, WV.



The Tech 4 Troops call to action is, simply stated: "Don't fill up our landfills with your used tech! Give it new life by responsibly recycling with us! Save the environment and support a Veteran."

Rotary Club of Princeton Rotarians Craig and Jane Stout, the District Community Service Chair, positioned their truck near the hotel entrance and were pleasantly surprised to see it completely filled with electronic equipment of all kinds.

Thank you District 7545 Clubs for a successful service project!



Our thanks to those of you who contributed to this worthy cause which extends the life of electronics such as computers by making them available to America's active-duty transitioning military, homeless and impoverished Veterans and their families.

Let's Connect:



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