

GREETINGS FROM THE DG

Happy Holidays! As we enter December, we recognize and honor the many holidays that fall in this month Winter Solstice, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's Eve...and we may as well add New Year's Day! Take a quiet moment this month to reflect on an incredible 2024 – there is much to be thankful for and to celebrate as we end this year and turn our attention toward 2025.

In November, Troy and I took a life changing trip to Bolivia to deliver wheelchairs with [The Wheelchair Foundation](#) (see article later in newsletter). I also visited six clubs, where I left inspired by the work our clubs do in their communities from ringing bells for the Salvation Army, collecting food for local food banks, putting up flags for Flags for Heroes, providing dictionaries to third graders and more!

I am pleased to share our Rotaract clubs are alive and well too! I had the honor of speaking at the UVA Rotaract Fall Formal, where I met our Global Scholars who received word, they were selected to receive \$40,000 scholarships to further their education abroad. All thanks to YOUR donations to [The Rotary Foundation](#)! They were genuinely thankful for our support. I encouraged them to seek out Rotary as they begin their careers and continue the cycle for future Global Scholars. Check-out this [VIDEO](#) showcasing our UVA Rotaractors.

On November 20th, I received word that the Freedom Connection Rotaract Club at George Mason University in Fairfax received their approved charter! This our fourth Rotaract Club, and the first cause-based Rotaract club focused on ending human trafficking in the world! We will be holding a formal charter celebration in January as we recognize [National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#).

Join us at the [Rotary C.H.A.T.S. workshop on Saturday, December 14th in Warrenton](#). This interactive two-hour workshop will help participants make stronger connections, ask deeper questions and develop better critical listening skills, all while sharing personal stories. You can continue conversations over lunch or head out after we end at Noon. I participated over the summer and am eager to share it with our District. Look forward to seeing you there.

SUBMITTED BY: AMELIA STANSELL - DISTRICT GOVERNOR

*PIC LIR: President Debbie Edenhart at Manassas Bull Run Flags for Heroes Program,
Warrenton Official DG Visit w/Pres Kevin Greeley, AG Wes Shortridge and Foundation Chair Frank Ramey
UVA Rotaract Fall Formal with iPP Pranav Shah
Warsaw Official Visit with President Doug Jenkins and newest member Caleb Gallagher*



DISTRICT GOVERNOR - AMELIA STANSELL

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AWARDS SPOTLIGHT!

Doing Good In The World



MONTHLY SERIES - PART 1

ALERT!

Have you been tracking activities your club has done for this Rotary Year? If not, jot down them down.

Rotary Clubs now set goals for a three-year period. This new approach encourages clubs to focus on long-term, high-impact projects and initiatives. By planning over three years, clubs can better align their goals with Rotary's strategic priorities. The new goal-setting process involves revisiting and adjusting goals annually, ensuring that clubs remain on track and adaptable to changing circumstances. This fosters a more collaborative and sustained effort among club leaders. The new three-year goal-setting changes in My Rotary Club Central not only provide a strategic approach to planning but also enhance clubs' ability to receive the RI President Citation each year. By setting and achieving goals over a longer period, clubs can better align efforts with Rotary's strategic priorities. This approach allows clubs to focus on long-term projects and initiatives, making it easier to meet the criteria for the RI President Citation consistently. As a result, clubs are more likely to achieve recognition for their outstanding contributions to Rotary and their communities.

To get started with the new goal-setting process in My Rotary Club Central, follow these steps:

1. Log in to Rotary Club Central: <https://rcc.rotary.org/#/goals?pth=C1>
2. Set Your Goals: Enter goals for the three-year period 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027.
3. Track Progress: Regularly update your goals based on achievements; adjust goals as you go along.
4. Work Together: Revisit and adjust goals regularly to reflect your club's progress. If you work as team, this should be a simple process to manage. The Club Board should discuss goals at each board meeting; then update goals monthly. This continuous updating process will help your club stay on track.

SUBMITTED BY: SHEILA BRENNAN, AWARDS CHAIR

STAY TUNED FOR PART 2 - District Governor Citation - DACdb – 24-25 Awards Module

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT!

MONTHLY SERIES - PART 4

ALERT!

**THIS IS THE FINAL IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES
ABOUT AN AMAZING ROTARY FAMILY.
HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE STORIES!**

THE MOHR FAMILY: The Granddaughter



Katie Mohr Haywood is the inheritor of the good Rotarian genes bequeathed by her parents and grandfather. This third generation Rotarian is now president-elect of the Rotary of King George-Dahlgren, a position that former District Governor Sandy Duckworth urged her to take. Katie noted that she was an infant in Heidelberg, Germany when the Berlin Wall went up. Years later, when she and her husband Paul were stationed in Bamberg, the wall came down. Early on Katie's musical talents became evident. Before the birth of her son, Sam, Katie was a program assistant at the National Endowment for the Arts. Her son is also a talented musician (percussion) and is a news writer for the local ABC morning program in NYC. She went on to obtain her undergraduate degree in church music/choral conducting at her beloved alma mater, Emory & Henry College. She then pursued her Master's degree at Scarritt Graduate School in church music and choral conducting. Katie accepted a church job as choir director at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church that kept her busy teaching three children's choirs, a youth choir, five handbell choirs and serving as the Praise Team leader.

In her mid-30's, Katie was invited by her mother to join the Stafford Rotary. She received a "fireside chat" new member orientation from Graham Greene, a local realtor who noted that she was already involved in community service and would make a good Rotarian. She joined the Stafford Rotary and soon had that club singing "God Bless America" at every meeting. Katie and her husband then purchased 22 acres in King George. She got a position as music teacher at Sealston Elementary School, where she served for 15 years.

Katie had to deal with challenges in recent years. Her husband died in 2016 and she battled breast cancer. She gives thanks to the many friends on Facebook that helped her through these crises. She also found solace in her garden, growing one hundred pounds of cucumbers with her first harvest.

At her parents' urging, Katie decided to join the King George-Dahlgren Rotary in 2012. Her father Don Mohr got his Fredericksburg Rotary to sponsor the club. It is a small club that today has only one remaining original member.

Katie now serves her Rotary club as president-elect. Currently the club's service projects include The Great Wine Out each fall, which allows them to support the schools, Coats for Kids, and hosting Flags for Heroes, something she wants to grow by lowering the price and thereby increasing the number of individual donors. Her goal is to reinvigorate her club through new service projects and increased public image. We all wish her well!

SUBMITTED BY: EILEEN CURTIS, DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

● FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT! ●

The
Rotary
Foundation



Ready for Year End Charitable Giving?

As we approach the end of 2024, are you finalizing your charitable giving? Here are three ways you may find tax friendly for charitable gifts to your favorite Rotary Foundation cause: Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), Appreciated Stock, and Donor Advised Funds (DAF).

QCD ~ If you are over aged 70 ½ you could be eligible to donate directly to The Rotary Foundation from your retirement account. This type of gift may count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) up to \$105,000 per year. Giving in this way is tax efficient since the money in your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) has never been subject to Income Tax and can be given directly to The Rotary Foundation without being subject to income tax when it leaves your IRA. IRA Distributions can satisfy your RMD requirement and do not count as income. This can be a great way to give in a tax efficient way even if you do not itemize on your tax return.

Appreciated Stock~ If you owned stock for more than a year, and it has appreciated in value, you may benefit from using that stock as the funding source for a charitable gift. If you give appreciated stock directly to The Rotary Foundation, you may be able to avoid the need to pay Long Term Capital Gains Tax. Additionally, you will receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the stock on the day the gift was made.

DAF ~ You can make a gift directly from your Donor Advised Fund to The Rotary Foundation. Please select The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, EIN 36-3245072 when making a DAF gift. Interested in opening a DAF? The Rotary Foundation can help!

Questions - Please contact Laurie Menzel, Major Gifts Officer, The Rotary Foundation, call 847.425.5601 or email Laurie.Menzel@rotary.org

● FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT! ●



Welcome to Your Thank You Party

*Come one and all to the party we're throwing in your honor and together we'll kick off
a great start to the 2nd half of our Rotary Year 2024/2025!*

What's the reason? You, of course! Your generous contributions to The Rotary Foundation are essential to growing Rotary programs throughout the world. We recognize donors to express gratitude for your commitment, offering individual/club recognition. Nearly 100% of the Rotary Clubs in this District engaged in one or more grants offered by Rotary International; financed through The Rotary Foundation.

On January 11, 2025, we are holding two events for you and Rotary Foundation. [**Register Here!**](#)

~ Mandatory Grant Education program. Part 1 is a presentation of Everything Compliance with Q&A session. Part 2 is an idea exchange on Successful Grant Projects, Do's & Don'ts & What We Expect. Held concurrently (75 min sessions), they will repeat so you may attend both sessions. Clubs are required to attend both sessions and have at least two members in attendance. We strongly suggest Club Rotary Foundation Chairs and Club Grant Managers. Please attend to get your questions answered, exchange project ideas and gather tips for success.

~ The Rotary Foundation Recognition & Awards Luncheon. Led by IPDG Rene' Laws, it celebrates all your accomplishments in RY 2023/2024 for The Rotary Foundation. Hear what successful results have been achieved in Global Grants. Applaud Rotarians and clubs that have gone the extra mile.

To further the Rotary fellowship atmosphere, we invite you to bake and bring your finest cookies to share with attendees. IPDG Rene' wants attendees to vote on the top 3 bakers who will receive a prize.

I look forward to trying your cookies!

SUBMITTED BY: PAT BOROWSKI - FOUNDATION CHAIR

ENVIRONMENTAL SPOTLIGHT

IT IS AUTUMN / FALL TIME SOON, IT WILL BE SPRING

Now is the best time of the year to start planning for your club's 2025 environmental support/protection projects.

- Invite community leaders to discuss (in a forum setting) local environment/support protection issues. Tell them about Rotary's new area of focus "Support of the Environment".
- Invite subject matter experts to speak at a club meeting about their environmental support/protection services. Tell them about Rotary's new area of focus "Support of the Environment" and opportunities to network.

Collaboration Opportunity Is Available

- The National Association of Conservation Districts ([NACD](#)) and the Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District ([NVSWCD](#)) each staffed a table at the House of Friendship.
- As a result of the contacts made and exchange of information at the House of Friendship, the NVSWCD wants to collaborate with the Rotary District 7610 Rotary Clubs of Alexandria City, Fairfax and Alexandria Counties on sponsorship/promotion of the [NVSWCD Youth Conservation Camp](#).
- The essential timeline for this collaboration follows:
 - o NVASWCD makes presentations (PowerPoint type) between now and February 2025 to Rotary Clubs in Fairfax County, Alexandria City and Arlington County about their Youth Conservation Camp.
 - o NVASWCD will need to know in February 2025 which Rotary clubs would be willing to be a sponsor and for how many kids.
 - o By April they need to know the names of kids Rotary has selected to attend the Youth Conservation Camp.
 - o After the 2025 camping season ends, our two organizations will decide which of NVSWCD's [other environment/conservation programs](#) will benefit from collaboration and mutual support of Rotary and the NVSWCD.

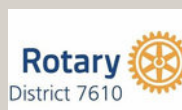
A big thank you to all who coordinated and participated in this year's District 7610/20 Convention, House of Friendship. For more information and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation on the Youth Conservation Camp collaboration between NVSWCD and Rotary District 7610); contact David Feld mdavidfeld@gmail.com OR call 703.608.2274.

SUBMITTED BY: M. DAVID FELD, CHAIR - District Action Group for Environmental Sustainability
"A Collaborative in Support of the Environment"

DISTRICT GOVERNOR - AMELIA STANSELL

[CONTACT AMELIA](#)

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TRIAD SPOTLIGHT!

~**TRIAD**~

**KEEPING SENIORS
SAFE**

PICTURED L/R: ROTARIAN CAL EWING, DEPUTY RON KESNER,
DEANNE MARSHALL (PRESIDENT)



The Rotary Club of Orange was excited to welcome Deputy Ron Kesner from the Orange County Sheriff's Office, who presented an update on the TRIAD Program, a community-driven initiative aimed at keeping seniors safe. TRIAD is a collaborative effort between law enforcement, senior organizations, and local partners to address issues that affect our older population. Deputy Kesner, the TRIAD Coordinator, shared vital information on:

- How seniors can protect themselves from financial scams and fraud
- Updates on local initiatives designed to enhance senior safety
- Practical tips for staying safe from identity theft and exploitation

This program is a great resource for seniors and their families, as it highlights keyways to reduce the risks of financial abuse and other crimes targeting our older citizens. TRIAD's mission is to keep our community informed and empowered.

A big thanks to Rotarian Cal Ewing for inviting Deputy Kesner back to provide these important updates. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn how dedicated TRIAD volunteers and the Orange County Sheriff's Office work together to keep our seniors safe and supported in our community.

For more details, contact Deputy Kesner at the Orange County Sheriff's Office or via email at rkesner@orangecountyva.gov.

Let's work together to support our senior community!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3: SUPPORT THE CART FUND

Have you considered making a gift to #TheCARTFund on #GivingTuesday?

You can help us get one step closer to prevention, treatment or cure for Alzheimers!

As Rotarians, we share a mission to make lasting impacts, and one opportunity to do so is by supporting the Coins for Alzheimer's Research . The CART Fund provides critical "seed money" for high-impact, innovative Alzheimer's research. These grants enable researchers to pursue groundbreaking ideas that often attract significant follow-up funding from larger institutions, amplifying the initial investment. This #GivingTuesday, I invite all Rotary clubs in District 7610 to contribute to this vital cause. With 100% of donations going directly to research, your support can help accelerate breakthroughs that could change lives. Join me, Joan McGregor, D7610 CART Chair, in this endeavor. Together, we can turn hope into action and make a profound difference for millions impacted by Alzheimer's. Let's unite as a district to ensure our legacy includes solving one of the most pressing medical challenges of our time.

SUBMITTED BY: JOAN MCGREGOR, CART CHAIR



A FESTIVE
EVENING OF
FELLOWSHIP
AND PURPOSE



The Rotary of Orange, VA, celebrated their 5th Tuesday gathering at Main Street Tavern located in the Town of Orange, with a fun and festive event. Rotarians dressed for the occasion, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the evening. The gathering wasn't just about camaraderie; it was a meaningful opportunity to make a difference. Donations were collected to support the mission of ending polio and to contribute to the CART Fund, which provides grant money for Alzheimer's research. Surrounded by great company, delicious food, and a shared commitment to service, the event exemplified that Rotarians are truly People of Action, dedicated to making a positive impact on our world. Pictured L/R: Rotarians dressed for the occasion!

SUBMITTED BY: JOAN MCGREGOR, ORANGE CLUB - PUBLIC IMAGE CHAIR

CRYSTAL CITY - PENTAGON: COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES BRIGHT AT FOUNDERS PARK CLEAN-UP

CLUB SPOTLIGHT!

On November 2, 2024, a dedicated group of community members gathered at Alexandria's Founders Park for a monthly clean-up event. Among them were five members of the Crystal City-Pentagon Rotary Club (CCPRC), led by President Dr. Marina Theodotou, and accompanied by club members Archie, Sheriann, Steve, and Peter. The team tackled the park's maintenance with tools provided by the Founders Park Association. CCPRC President Dr. Marina Theodotou emphasized the importance of these events: "One of our Club's four focal areas this year is the environment. So, we are here to support the park clean up. Our parks are the heart of our community. By working together, we not only maintain their beauty but also foster connections among neighbors and spread the Magic of Rotary." The volunteers' hard work paid off; the park was transformed. The effort demonstrated the power of collective action and community spirit. Quick win service projects serve as a testament to the impact Rotarians can have collaborating toward a common goal.



On October 29, 2024, the Crystal City-Pentagon Rotary Club (CCPRC) hosted its First Annual Giving Gala at Julia's on the Potomac, a well-known restaurant with incredible views of the Potomac, great food, and impeccable service. The event brought together 39 dedicated Rotarians and friends for an evening of generosity and fellowship. This inaugural event marked a significant milestone in the club's commitment to community service and charitable giving to fund scholarships. The event moderator, Past President Matt Leavitt, welcomed guests while the band played jazz tunes. The event honored two students who benefited from the club's scholarship program and youth exchange activities. Rotary's motto of "service above self" was shining bright. "Tonight, we are honored by your support and celebrate our collective efforts and reaffirm our commitment to creating lasting change by supporting education, which is the foundation and framework for everything else," said CCPRC President Dr. Marina Theodotou.

CRYSTAL CITY-PENTAGON CLUB: INAUGURAL GIVING GALA NIGHT OF PHILANTHROPY AND FELLOWSHIP



Long-time Rotarian Dr. Neal Davidson offered a riveting keynote, sharing powerful stories of Rotarian impact, highlighting Rotary's focus, and spreading cheer. Through a silent auction, led by Club Treasurer Alejandra Underwood, the gala surpassed its fundraising goal to support educational scholarships for local high school students. CCPRC recognizes all guests, Rotarians, and friends for their indispensable contributions to the evening's success.



SUBMITTED BY: MARIA KUECKEN - CRYSTAL CITY-PENTAGON CLUB

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT! PAGE 1

District Team Training Seminar – Sat March 22, 2025

DTTS is a critical event designed to prepare incoming district leaders, for their roles in the upcoming Rotary year. It focuses on developing leadership skills, enhancing collaboration, and aligning district goals with RI's mission and priorities.

Key Benefits:

- Leadership Development
- Strategic Planning
- Role-Specific Training
- District Collaboration
- Focus on Rotary Priorities
- Inspiration and Motivation

District Training Assembly – Sat April 26, 2025

Held annually, the DTA serves as a key learning event for all incoming club officers. This assembly ensures club leaders are prepared for their roles and equipped with the tools they need to effectively manage club operations.

Key Benefits:

- Role-specific training sessions
- Workshops on membership growth, service projects, and public relations
- Collaborative opportunities with other clubs
- Updates on D7610's goals and initiatives
- Networking with district peers
- Workshops on club management

**Check DACdb for info and registration after January 2025
for both sessions.**

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT! PAGE 2

Learning and Development Programs and Workshops:

Rotary offers periodic workshops, seminars, and webinars that focus on leadership development for current and emerging leaders. These programs cover areas such as;

- Public speaking and communication skills
- Conflict resolution and team management
- TRF Fundraising and grant management
- Leading through service and inspiring volunteer engagement

Mentorship and Peer Support:

District 7610 fosters a culture of mentorship where experienced leaders, including Past Presidents and senior Rotarians, support PEs and other incoming leaders. By offering a blend of formal training, practical tools, and ongoing support, Rotary District 7610 ensures that club leaders are equipped to meet the challenges of their roles and effectively lead their clubs in achieving meaningful impact.

Future Workshops Scheduled:

District Emerging Leaders – learn about various District Chair positions and committees.

Project management – get information on creating, planning and executing successful club service projects.

Cyber Security Awareness – semiannual review; similar to Sep 2024 Zoom session

Conflict Resolution Workshop – second class offering for district Rotarians who couldn't attend the first one.

HOT BREAKING NEWS

Ever wonder about getting a speaker for a club program, but didn't know where to start?? Now you do! District 7610 is launching its own Speakers Database! This will include not only Rotarians, but also, subject matter experts on a variety of topics. We currently have a list of approximately 40 individuals. We are looking to add more individuals to the list. Please contact Ralph Menzel- rmenzel1471@gmail.com to propose someone for this database.

CREATING A PERSONALIZED GIVING PLAN LEGACY CAMPAIGN

Giving to the Legacy Campaign reflects a commitment to long-term, sustainable impact. This ensures that Rotary has a perpetual source of funding for projects around the world, focusing on areas such as clean water, education, health, and peacebuilding. Your contribution grows over time, supporting generations to come.

Creating a personalized giving plan involves thoughtful consideration of your values, financial goals, and desired impact. Here's how you can get started:

Steps to Create a Personalized Giving Plan:

1. Define Your Philanthropic Vision

- What causes resonate most with you? (e.g., education, peacebuilding, clean water, healthcare)
- Do you wish to support a specific Rotary area of focus or geographic region?

2. Determine the Method of Giving

Rotary offers flexible ways to give, depending on your financial situation and estate planning needs:

- **Bequests in Your Will:** A planned gift allows you to leave a legacy without impacting your current financial security.
- **Charitable Gift Annuities:** Provide you with income for life while supporting Rotary's mission.
- **Beneficiary Designations:** Name Rotary as a beneficiary of a retirement account, insurance policy, or other assets.

3. Engage with Rotary's Planned Giving Team

- Contact Major Gifts Officer, Laurie Menzel to discuss your goals. She can help you structure a gift plan that maximizes impact while aligning with your financial and tax planning strategies.

4. Recognize Your Contribution

- Join The Rotary Foundation Bequest Society or Legacy Society to connect with like-minded philanthropists and receive recognition.
- You can often name funds or dedicate them to specific causes to personalize your impact.

5. Communicate Your Legacy

- Inform your family or beneficiaries about your plans and why supporting Rotary is important to you. This ensures your vision is honored and shared.

6. Monitor and Adjust

- Over time, your circumstances or priorities may evolve. Rotary allows flexibility to modify your giving plan as needed.

Benefits of a Personalized Giving Plan

- Creates a lasting legacy for future generations.
- Ensures your contributions reflect your values and priorities.
- Offers potential tax benefits, including deductions or reduced estate taxes.
- Gives peace of mind knowing your resources will create a sustainable impact.

For more information, please contact D7610 Legacy Campaign Chair, Ralph Menzel at 571-232-6477 or rmenzel1471@gmail.com

BOLIVIA TRIP SPOTLIGHT!

PERSONAL MEMORIES SHARED BY; DG - AMELIA STANSELL

SEE PHOTOS FROM THIS TRIP ~ LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Page 1

This past Thanksgiving meant a little bit more to me this year. Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays as cooking is my love language and how I like to share my love with others. This year was different, we had more than our family around the table. We also hosted Earl and Pat Baughman and Sergio Andres Flores Ortiz, a Rotaractor from Bolivia. Let me back-up a minute to tell the story of how that happened.

Troy and I just returned from a trip to Bolivia to deliver 260 wheelchairs representing our Rotary District, along with 15 other Rotarians from Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. This is with thanks to an invitation from Manassas Rotarian Xiao-Yin Byrum. Bolivia is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere, next to Haiti. This economic situation leads to malnutrition, a lack of prenatal care, families where both parents labor outside of the home to support their families. Homes where an open fire in the middle serves as the only heat source and to cook on. More on that later.

After returning, we have a greater appreciation for our country and the system of government we live under. As Americans, we can take care of our own through government social programs, and the generosity of our fellow citizens. While it is not perfect, we have safety nets to help catch those who have fallen into need.

In Bolivia, the government has been ineffective in providing support for the basic needs of its people. Philanthropic organizations are few. One Rotarian told me "We are out of fuel, and out of money," as we passed lines of cars and trucks waiting 2-3 days at service stations for fuel as the government regulates fuel prices and availability. However, Rotary stands out as a beacon of hope in Bolivia.

We traveled by bus with our Rotary hosts hundreds of miles on bumpy dirt roads to deliver wheelchairs to isolated villages, many of which had active Rotary Clubs to welcome us. These Rotarians spent many hours setting up the distributions, staging the wheelchairs, and ensuring those who needed the chairs receive them. As we delivered them, we heard the stories of the recipients. From families with children born with birth defects like cerebral palsy due to malnutrition and a lack of prenatal care; loss of legs due to diabetes; to a woman in her early forties who is a polio survivor; a girl who was in a horrific motorcycle accident where she watched her father die in front of her and she lost the use of her legs – yet was intelligent and this chair meant she could go back to school and her mother could work again. This meant freedom and hope for their family as they rebuild. So many incredible stories to share.

Along the way, we visited other Rotary projects which provided opportunities for our members to engage. We visited a dialysis unit in San Jose where they have two machines that are in almost constant use but is plumbed and wired for four more units. They said that diabetes rates are high due to malnutrition and people wait six or more months to have access to dialysis and on average lose one life per week of people on the dialysis or transplant list.

CON'T ON NEXT PAGE.....

BOLIVIA TRIP SPOTLIGHT!

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Page 2

In San Ignacio, we visited their maternity and pediatric ward at their hospital, where they deliver 10 babies a day. It looked like something from a horror film. No antiseptics or PPE to be seen, and old, rusty, barely functioning equipment is all they had. The baby warmer hasn't worked in years, so they just place the baby on a heat pad with a space heater next to it and hope it works. The bili light machine that is used to save jaundiced babies doesn't work either. They put the babies under the machines to give the new mom hope, but know there isn't any. We visited their NICU, the only room in the hospital that was temperature controlled. They had four working incubators with four tiny babies in them. Two were twins, born on World Polio Day, October 24th, and were a week old, but weighed less than a pound. Incubators are supposed to have a 10-year useful life, but they are now 35 years old. The doctor, who has worked there for 43 years, said he spends more time as a mechanic keeping the machines working than being a doctor. He said that when an incubator dies, so does the baby. Not if. When. As a mom, this broke my heart. We as Rotarians can help.

We were hosted by the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. You may recall that their only heat source and cooking source is an open fire and both parents work outside of the home and older siblings are in school, so often it is 5-year-olds watching toddlers, or even younger, so there are often burns. Horrific burns as kids don't know how to care for kids – especially after they have been burned. Our hosts had the audacious goal of building and operating a burn center for children – the only one in the country and opened it in 2005 with the help of The Rotary Foundation's 3H grant. Centro de Rehabilitación de Niños Quemados (Cerniquem) has been visited by four Rotary International Presidents and John Hewko. Unfortunately, because of finances, they can only open the center four times a year, when they have surgical teams come in from Germany. Rotarians from our group are planning to help secure the special fabric required for clothing to treat the children's burns at \$10,000 to ensure they can make the special compression clothing needed for recovery. The Center also needs physical therapy equipment and commercial laundry machines to do their laundry, but also creates sustainability by being able to run commercial laundry for other hospitals and hotels to generate revenue so they can buy the material and pay for staff so they can help more children.

While there are many problems, human mobility was the primary reason for our visit. The object of the visit was first to deliver wheelchairs, second to help our Rotarians understand the culture and history of Bolivia and third to interact with fellow Rotarians from Bolivia, thus, to better understand their way of life and help them understand more about our American culture.

CON'T ON NEXT PAGE.....

BOLIVIA TRIP SPOTLIGHT!

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The Wheelchair Foundation states that there is a need for 100 million wheelchairs in the world and for every person who gets a wheelchair, there are on average six caregivers providing support for the afflicted person. Half of the recipients of the wheelchairs were literally carried by a family member, one even showed up in a wheelbarrow. Because of the rough terrain most of the wheelchairs we provided had pneumatic tires. Hard rubber tires are used in an urban environment. For about the cost of a Verizon bill – or \$160 – Rotarians can provide hope to seven people through a gift to [The Wheelchair Foundation](#).

The trip was meaningful and productive. We were able to provide 260 wheelchairs to people who need them and the Rotarians from here were able to have a better understanding of the culture of Bolivia and the many challenges the Bolivian people face. A bond of fellowship was also forged between the Rotarians from both countries. We made friendships which will last. That is how we came to host Sergio for Thanksgiving. We didn't meet him there, but we met DG Luis and PE Rony of the Rotary Club of Amorro and Sergio is the PE of the Amorro Rotaract club. PE Rony asked if I could help Sergio meet local Rotarians and Rotaractors while he is in town until late January. So, of course I invited him to enjoy a major American holiday with my family, Earl and Pat.

If you are curious about how you, your club, business, church, synagogue, mosque, temple or other group can make a difference in Bolivia, we will be hosting a virtual project fair with their District in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more information. If you would like Sergio or me to visit your club and share about the trip and how your club can get engaged, we are happy to schedule a visit.

SUBMITTED BY: AMELIA STANSELL - DISTRICT GOVERNOR



IPDG SPOTLIGHT!

**Celebration Time - Club Rotary Citations
Lead to District Citation
for RY 2023-24!**

As Immediate Past District Governor, I would like to extend my hearty congratulations to all of our clubs that earned the Rotary Citation, the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve, for the 2023-24RY. Immediate-past club presidents received an email from RI Awards noting the achievement in Aug/Sep, and a link to the certificates was provided. Please note as of July 1, 2024 this award is known as the **Club Excellence Award!**

Recently, I was informed by RIP Stephanie Urchick and iPRIP Gordon R McNally that since over half of the clubs in D7610 earned the Rotary Citation (66%), we are being additionally honored with a District Citation! This recognition was achieved by 111 districts globally, meaning only 20% of districts worldwide earned this citation for 2023-24RY, and we are one! THANK YOU! MORE INFO: **ROTARY CITATION GOALS & INSTRUCTIONS**

It would be my honor to share my gratitude by visiting the clubs involved to thank every member in person for all the hard work and dedication it took to earn this award! Our success was due to clubs reporting goals and results in Rotary Club Central, and submitting various awards applications, with assistance from a dedicated district team!

Reach out to get on my calendar ASAP! eightlaws@verizon.net or call 678-763-4661

With the closing of any calendar year, we tend to pause and assess personal and vocational matters, and to calculate adjustments or new goals required for the next phase. We choose to stay on course or look for unexpected possibilities, and we can do the same thing in our clubs. No matter the desired outcome, goals are an essential tool for mapping the path to success and determining the velocity necessary to achieve our objective. As we reflect on an extraordinary 2023-24 and the enthusiasm it created to launch us into 2024-25, let's harness that momentum and focus our energy on what we can accomplish in the next six months!

As the 2024-25 District Annual Fund Chair, I can also visit clubs to present on **The Rotary Foundation**. I can speak about setting goals, utilizing the resources and tools provided by RI as a benefit of membership, creating a successful action plan, identifying crucial and essential avenues to engage members and track progress while documenting successes and challenges along the way, or taking steps to create a path for future leaders to build consistency.

I hope to see many of you at the D7610 2023-24 Foundation Awards on Jan 11th!

SUBMITTED BY: René Laws, IPDG & DISTRICT ANNUAL FUND CHAIR

ROTARACT SPOTLIGHT!

Rotaract is on the Rise in District 7610!!!

Page 1

District 7610 is fortunate to have leadership that is embracing RI guidance to expand the status and role of Rotaract Clubs in our larger Rotary Family. Currently, we have three active Rotaract Clubs – ***Rotaract Club of UVA, Rotaract Club of MWU, and Rotaract Community Club of Vienna which is in the process of becoming the Rotaract e-club of District 7610.*** We are also fortunate to be adding to our roles the newly established Rotaract Freedom Connection Club of GMU which received their charter this past week. Keep the developing Rotaract Club of NOVA on your horizon as they continue to pursue service projects and move forward toward establishing a formal identity and apply for a charter.

Congratulations and welcome to the **Rotaract Freedom Connection Club of GMU**. Chloe Brackens, current president of Freedom Connection, is taking the lead in papering the paperwork and necessary submissions to RI. This club will have the single focus on fighting human trafficking. Now that their charter has been issued; we await news of their first organized Rotaract meeting, likely sometime in early 2025. For more information contact Chloe: fconnect@gmu.com

Rotaract Club of UVA is our district's largest Rotaract Club and excels in widespread service to their community. Under the leadership of Pranav Shah, they recently hosted their annual Rotunda Fall Formal which I was fortunate to attend. The beauty of Rotunda setting, the excellent speakers (one of which was DG Amelia), the touching personal stories of service by Rotaract members, the awarding of four global scholar grants, and their own club's distinguished service presentation to Miranda Rennert all contributed to an inspiring evening. For more information contact Pranav: gxp4mh@virginia.edu

Rotary Club of UMW is in my backyard and has been growing steadily over the last few years under the leadership of Samantha Mitzel. They recently Co-hosted the annual Chili Cook-Off with the Stafford Rotary Club. PDG Rene assisted with the induction of several new Rotaract members while we all shared an evening of fun and fellowship. For more information contact Samantha: smitzel@umw.edu

The Vienna Community Rotaract Club has transitioned to the Rotaract eClub of District 7610. To kick off this new chapter, President Dominique Billett and President-Elect Katie Larson are hosting a hybrid interest meeting for all interested Rotaract members and young professionals.

Date: December 11, 2024

Time: 6-8 PM (flexible, join when you can)

Location: Central Library, Arlington (1015 N Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22201)

Virtual Option: Join via Zoom

Light snacks will be provided. Please note, this meeting is specifically for potential Rotaract eClub members. If you know anyone who might be interested, please share this information with them. For more information contact us at rotaractclub7610@gmail.com.

ROTARACT SPOTLIGHT!

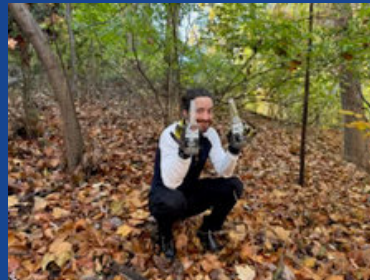
Rotaract is on the Rise in District 7610!!!

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Developing Rotaract Club of NOVA is an emerging club under the guidance of Joe Nam Do, President of the Rotary Club of Annadale. They are working on service projects and gathering together for fun and fellowship. Sooner or later, they will officially organize into a Rotaract Club, but for now they are exploring their possibilities and serving their local community. For more information contact: Joe Nam Do: jonamdo@gmail.com

As District 7610's Rotaract Chair, it is a wonderful experience to work with each of these Rotaract Clubs in our district. It is extremely rewarding to witness our Rotaract Clubs in action!!!

SUBMITTED BY: DONNA ALMBORG, DISTRICT ROTARACT CHAIR / AG District
donna.almborg@earthlink.net OR CALL 540-226-7704



HOLIDAY SPOTLIGHT!

THE ROTARY ROSE PARADE FLOAT COMMITTEE, INC.
Promoting Rotary to the World Since 1980
POST OFFICE BOX 92502 | PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91109-2502
WEBSITE WWW.ROTARYFLOAT.ORG | EMAIL ROSEFLOAT@ROTARYFLOAT.ORG



Join Us Now and Support Our 2025 Float!



**SCAN TO
DONATE**

The 2025 Rose Parade is almost here, and we need YOUR CLUB to help bring our dream float to life! This is a unique chance to be part of something truly special, and your support—big or small—will make a world of difference. If you've already donated, THANK YOU for being a vital part of this journey! If you haven't yet, now is the time to jump in. Every dollar contributed helps us create something incredible, and together, we can build the most spectacular float the Parade has ever seen! Don't wait—donate today and be part of the magic!

Make Checks payable to:
Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee
P.O. Box 92502, Pasadena CA 91109-2502

Facebook:
RotaryRoseParadeFloatCommittee
www.RotaryFloat.org



The Float is a project of The Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee.

Date: December 7th ~ Time: 6:00 PM (right after parade!)

Location: Taylor Park, Town of Orange

For over 40 years, the Community Memorial Christmas Tree has been lighting up Taylor Park in the Town of Orange every first Sunday in December since 1978! This special tree was donated and planted by a local couple, Irwin and Welford Sherman, in memory of their son, David. In 1985, the Rotary Club of Orange was entrusted with the care and management of this beautiful tradition. We are honored to keep it going.

The lights on the tree are symbolic and honor the memory of someone dear to you, someone you remember at Christmastime. If you'd like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one, contact Joan McGregor for details: joanlmcgregor0@gmail.com

Festive Fun Includes:

- Hot chocolate to warm your heart (and hands!)
- Christmas caroling led by the talented OCHS Choir
- Holiday songs that'll get you in the Christmas spirit
- A magical evening with friends, family, and neighbors

Some chairs will be provided, but feel free to bring your own cozy seat and blankets. Let's make this an evening full of joy, love, and holiday cheer.



● BOLIVIA TRIP SPOTLIGHT! ●

DG AMELIA'S BOLIVIA TRIP PHOTO COMPILATION

CLICK ON THE PICTURE BELOW
TO VIEW THEM



DISTRICT GOVERNOR - AMELIA STANSELL

[CONTACT AMELIA](#)

CLICK ICONS FOR OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!



DISTRICT 7610 INFORMATION

**WELCOME
NEW
ROTARIANS!**

WE GAINED

19

NEW MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 7610

REPORT GENERATED 10/24 - 11/26

Member Name	Start Date	Club	Sponsor
Truong, Bonny E. (BONNY)	11/3/2024	Bailey's Crossroads	Rubin
Mitchell, Russ (RUSS)	11/20/2024	Blue Ridge Mountains	Dan Alley
Grubbs, Michael (MICHAEL)	11/14/2024	Broadlands-Dulles South	Sharon L. Wright
Bordes, Steven F. (STEVE)	11/17/2024	Broadlands-Dulles South	
Hansalia, Ashish (ASHISH)	11/1/2024	Airport	Rich McCary / Georgie Graves
Ivey, Donna M (DONNA)	11/5/2024	Dunn Loring-Merrifield	Mark Evans
Lin, Wenzhi (WENZHI)	11/5/2024	Fairfax	Nathan Desnoyers / Doug Church
Bolger, Anne C. (ANNIE)	11/19/2024	Fairfax	Joe Catalano
Coker, Margart (MEG)	10/24/2024	Gainesville-Haymarket	Indira Donegan
Spivey, Gregory (GREG)	11/1/2024	Great Falls	Dan Lundeen
Wyvill, Ken (KEN)	11/8/2024	Orange	Deanne Marshall
Ponton, James Douglas (DOUG)	11/12/2024	Orange	Deanne Marshall
Jennings, John (JOHN)	10/25/2024	Purcellville	
Locke, Priscilla W. (PAT)	10/25/2024	Springfield	Wayne Chiles
Press, John L (JOHN)	11/17/2024	Tappahannock	Bob Schreiber
Rattehalli, Ashok (ASHOK)	11/15/2024	Vienna	David Smith
Hsu, John K (JOHN)	11/15/2024	Vienna	Charles Billingsley
Heritage, Katie (KATIE)	11/15/2024	Warrenton	Beth Ledgerton
Rattehalli, Chitra (CHITRA)	11/15/2024	Vienna	David Smith

NEWS & EVENTS

DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS:

The District News page serves as a comprehensive platform to keep members informed about the district's efforts in service, fellowship, and community development.

[Read the latest news now!](#)

DISTRICT CALENDAR:

The District Calendar provides a schedule of upcoming events and important dates in the district; you can register for events from the calendar.

[Stay in the loop with our District's Calendar!](#)

FOUNDATION NEWS

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION:

Get the most recent updates on humanitarian grants, World Peace Fellowships, Global Grant Scholarships, Polio Plus Society and Vocational Training Teams.

[District 7610 ~ The Rotary Foundation](#)