

### **District 7850 Welcomes Dona Bate as New Speech Contest Chair**

District 7850 is pleased to announce that Dona Bate has taken on the role of District Speech Contest Chair, replacing Ed Saulnier who's dedication and commitment to the program made him the face of the district's speech contest for many years. Ed has agreed to assist Dona and the committee as part of his early retirement plans.

Dona is a speaker, coach & trainer for her business *dbate speaking*, and has over 40 years on private and public boards. She moved to Vermont 50 years ago where she found a deep, expansive sense of community to raise her two sons, Will and Dylan, and now enjoys her grand-daughter, Kira.

Dona keeps her passport current for world-wide travel and her voice ever ready. In 1985 she became Executive Director of a local community transportation organization and spent nearly 20 years expanding it into a regional 23-town, multi-million dollar integrated transportation system.

Dona ran twice for Vermont Lt. Governor on the Natural Law Party slate in the 1990s, and in statewide candidate debates she was quoted for her non-partisan and prevention focus. She joined the Montpelier Rotary Club in 2010 and became coordinator of its High School Speech Contest, which has had two District Winners, and was chosen to receive the club's Citizen of the Year Award.

In 2014 Dona was elected to Montpelier City Council and advocates for a net zero, multi-modal transportation system and protection for all Vermont's drinking water sources. As Dona still loves to talk, she delights in sharing her skills, experiences, and fun of public speaking with others. She appreciates the honor to work with Louisa, Jay and all the clubs in District 7850 to enhance the opportunities for youth in Rotary.

For further information regarding District 7850's Speech Contest, Dona can be reached at [dbatespeaking@gmail.com](mailto:dbatespeaking@gmail.com).