



THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



December 2025	District Newsletter 2026, Number 6	Donna Deos District Governor
www.rotary7870.org		
<p>Rotarian Editors in our 8th year! Maureen Mooney (Merrimack, NH) and Martin Cohn (Springfield, VT)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>		
Rotary Theme of the Year: <i>Unite for Good</i>		
Rotary Theme of the Month: <i>Disease Prevention and Treatment Month</i>		



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Greetings From Your District Governor Donna Deos

Peace, Love and Happiness

The holiday season is one of my favorites. I love the festivities, the kindness to others, the gatherings of friends and family and all of the magic and sparkle that comes with it. Thank you for all that you do to bring joy and what is most needed to all you know and all you serve.



Rotarians commit wonderful acts of kindness all year long. We provide food, shelter, beds, clothes, money, heating fuel and cords of wood. We sell and give away trees & wreaths, provide school supplies, scholarships, meals to Veterans, Seniors and the unhoused, fun events for children and so much more.

Please take some time to reflect on all of the good you and your fellow Rotary family members do each and every day. I know we were raised to put Service Above Self and to not brag about what we do. I want you to know that it is perfectly okay to feel pride in what we do and give ourselves and others a pat on the back or a high five for all of the jobs well done. It is okay celebrate and to share with others all that we do. Being proud of something and sharing it is not bragging. It is promoting goodness and kindness and giving others the ability to see the good in the world and maybe even become a part of it with us.

Please know that I see you. I believe in you. I am proud of you. We all are.

Life throws us curveballs all of the time. The key is in how we handle those. Sometimes we handle them with grace and style, we slide just to the side and let it go right by. Other times, we take it directly in the face or the heart and we react from how much it hurt. It's okay to feel the hurt. It's okay to react. Once you have recovered from the hurt, please remember to show yourself some grace. Forgive yourself for how you reacted. Try to forgive the person who hurt you. If you can find it in your heart to apologize for how you reacted – all the better! This time of year can bring out the best and the worst in people for a whole slew of reasons we don't know about.

If we stop and think about how someone reacts and realize everyone is doing the best that they can in every moment we can take a step back and see: Wow, they must really be having a hard time to react like they did. Most times when people lash out it is over something that had little or nothing to do with us. We just happened to be the one in front of them when the final straw fell on the camel's back. Maybe that was because we had something to learn. Maybe it was because they knew we would be able to reflect on it and realize that it really wasn't personal to us and we would show them grace and forgive them.



Rotary is a family. We are kind, generous and forgiving. We are likeminded people who want to make a difference in the world. We want to do that together because we accomplish more and have fun doing it. May we all dig deep into ourselves this holiday season and in the coming year. We have so much good to offer and so much more we can accomplish – and we will ~ together!

If you are having a hard time and just need someone to listen, we are here for you. Who is we? Well, I can speak for myself for sure. The rest of the “we” are your other fellow Rotarians. Good people who care about you are all around. You know who they are. Even if they are the one(s) you inadvertently offended, they still care and will help. Good people forgive and understand. Sometimes it just takes time to get to the place where we can.



Together, we create, promote and share peace, love and happiness. Let’s remember to bring that to ourselves and others as well. May peace be with you all.

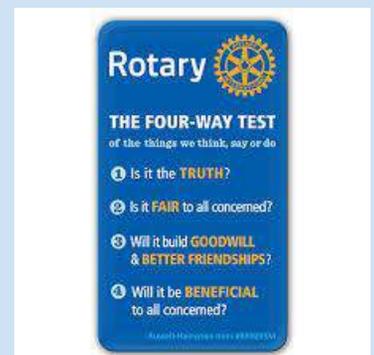
Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and peaceful, prosperous and happy New Year!

DG Donna & the District Leadership Team

District News

Important Changes to 2025-2026 District 4-Way Test Speech Contest

The semi-finals for this year’s contest will be held on Sunday April 12 at the Henniker, NH Community Center beginning at 1pm. Contestants should arrive by 12:30. The top three (3) at the semi-finals will advance to the finals which will be held at the District Assembly to be held at the Best Western in Keene, NH on May 30. Prize money will be awarded as follows: the two runners-up will receive \$500 each and the top place finisher will receive \$1000.



Save the Date: District Conference Set for May 30, 2026

Mark your calendars! District Governor Donna invites all Rotarians to join her for a dynamic one-day District Conference on **Saturday, May 30, 2026, at the Best Western Hotel in Keene, New Hampshire.** The Conference Committee has been hard at work planning an energizing program filled with inspiration, fellowship, and hands-on service.



What's Ahead at the Conference

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Randy Pierce

Prepare to be inspired. Dr. Randy Pierce will bring his remarkable story to the stage, sharing how he chose a life of bold adventure even after losing his vision at age 22. His powerful message and unforgettable experiences promise to motivate and uplift every attendee.

4-Way Test Speech Contest Finals

The top contestants from this year's 4-Way Test Speech Contest will deliver their final presentations. These talented young speakers never fail to impress, offering thoughtful and passionate perspectives that make us proud of our future leaders.

District 7870 Exchange Students

Our exchange students will share their stories of learning, courage, and connection. Their heartfelt reflections will make you laugh, cry, and appreciate the transformative impact of Rotary Youth Exchange.

Additional Speakers & Presentations

Learn more about the many facets of Rotary through a variety of sessions featuring dedicated members and partner organizations.

Catered Lunch by Tempesta Restaurant

Enjoy a delicious midday meal as you connect with friends old and new.

Rotary Cares: Summer & School Support for Pine Ridge

This year's District Conference will include a meaningful, hands-on service project supporting families on the **Pine Ridge Reservation** in South Dakota. Together, we will assemble **Summer Wellness Kits, Back-to-School Packs, and Teen Empowerment Bundles** that will be shipped to partner organizations serving the Oglala Lakota community.



Evening fellowship activities and special hotel rates are being arranged for those who wish to extend their stay. Additional details will be shared in the coming months — but be sure to secure the date now!

Sponsorship Opportunities

Gold Sponsor — \$250

- \$125 supports the District Conference + \$125 supports the Pine Ridge service project

Silver Sponsor — \$150

- \$75 supports the District Conference + \$75 supports the Pine Ridge service project

— *Chris Parkinson, PDG*
District Conference Chair

Club News

Springfield Rotary Club Donates Books to Chester-Andover Elementary School and Springfield's Union Street School

Through the Rotary Ideals Literacy Project, the Springfield Rotary Club has donated a set of books to every second- and third-grade student at Chester-Andover Elementary School and the Union Street School in Springfield.

One of the books, *Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure*, introduces children to the Rotary Four-Way Test, which encourages readers to consider:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The second book, *Becky & Lin's Apple Orchard Park*, highlights Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," through a story about community members coming together to make a positive difference.



The Rotary Club of Springfield, founded in 1927, is an active community service organization with 30 members involved in a wide range of local and international service projects. To learn more, visit <https://springfieldvtrotary.org/>.

PHOTO 1: Springfield Rotary Club past president Emma McGuirk reads to Chester-Andover Elementary School third grade students.

Springfield Rotary's Food Drive a Success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club's "Fill the Cart from the Heart Food Drive" was held on Sat., Nov. 22nd in the Springfield Shopping Plaza to benefit the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf. 1,011 pounds of food and \$ 1,678 in monetary donations were collected. Thank you to Shaw's for the location and a big thank you to the greater Springfield community for all your generous donations to help your neighbors in need.



PHOTO: (l-r): Past president Karen Longo, President Sue Phelps, Rotarian Ed McQuaide, Past president Deb Cox, and Rotarian Alan Englander were on hand to help make the Springfield Rotary Club's "Fill the Cart from the Heart Food Drive" a success.

Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Donates to Two-Town Santas

At the Thursday Thanksgiving breakfast at Franklin Pierce University, Rotarians honored two holiday charities that provide hundreds of toys and games to area children. Representing Santa's House in Jaffrey, Kathleen Batchelder (pictured right) told stories of the many children who would "go without" at Christmas if it were not for the generosity of the community. Also receiving a donation from Gail Therriault, Rotary Charitable Giving Chair (pictured in background) is Marilyn Grisha of the Rindge Operation Santa. She is pictured with her hand over her heart as an expression of how much the donation means to her as she retires from the position after 14 years of service as a Santa!



Rindge Student Honored by Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary

The November Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Student of the Month was Luke Ludlam, who attended the breakfast at Franklin Pierce University with his family and teachers. His Rindge Memorial School Principal Nicola Fraley assisted the fifth-grade teacher Dawn Hoden in preparing a citation for the honoree:



"When the direction in class is to listen actively and with curiosity, you can be sure that Luke is already doing exactly that. He approaches learning with enthusiasm and a genuine desire to grow his knowledge, making thoughtful connections to ideas he's noticed or wondered about in his community and the world around him.

It is a true pleasure to have Luke in fifth grade this year. His kindness and positive energy brighten our school, his creative flair inspires classroom engagement, and his strong work ethic sets a wonderful example for others. Luke is a young man who embraces each day with heart, integrity, and a love of learning."

PHOTO: Sam Lafortune, Rotary Chair for Students of the Month (left), brother James, Luke (checkered shirt) and parents Molly and John Ludlam with teacher Dawn Hoden.

Author Captivates Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary

In one of the most fascinating speaker programs of the year, Debra LeClair, Psy.D, author of the book *The Common Hours*, engaged members in an interactive discussion of reading and writing. Her approach captured the audience with questions of personal relationships to books, writing and especially their relationship to their own ancestry. The Jaffrey resident explained that the book grew from her own Irish ancestors which explained a fascination with Queen Elizabeth I and a need to explore the story related to her DNA. This presentation at the breakfast meeting at Franklin Pierce University on November 13 will be long remembered for the empowering message which captivated the membership.



Rotary of Deerfield Valley Presents. . .

On September 25, 2025, we partnered with AARP to offer a community presentation entitled “Protect Your Future from Fraud & Scams.” The session was led by Amy Nofziger, AARP’s Fraud Expert. She detailed who often gets taken advantage of by financial scams and offered several different strategies to help shield us all from common frauds and scams.

The presentation was quite well received by the attendees, who participated both in person and via Zoom. Many interesting questions were asked and answered, and we just may have saved a few people from a potential financial crisis! We are grateful to AARP – and to Amy – for the ability to offer this important topic to the community.

On January 12, 2026, we are partnering with two local area residents, Sarah Bush, LICSW and Shannon McAvoy, Captain of Epic Wellness at Mount Snow, to present “An Overview of Anxiety & Depression.” This is another important presentation, as ski towns have been found to have much higher rates of depression, due to a variety of factors.

Sarah and Shannon will define anxiety and depression, will share some common signs and symptoms, offer a few coping strategies and resources, and will share what we can do for ourselves or our loved ones that may be suffering from anxiety/depression. They will also leave time to take any questions that attendees may have.

In addition to everything else the Rotary Club of Deerfield Valley will accomplish this year, we are thrilled to be able to offer such important information to the community free of charge.

Seasons Greetings from the Keene Elm City Rotary Club

Recently, a few members got to go on the coolest shopping trip ever! Proceeds from our Clarence DeMar Marathon allow us to do many wonderful things in our community. For over a decade, we have taken \$1000 on a shopping spree for Toys For Tots. We truly enjoy shopping with our good friend and local toy store owner, Steve Levy. Steve has owned and operated Toy City in Keene for 53 years and is about to retire. He has generously supported KECR and our shopping trip. On our latest visit, Steve turned our \$1000 into \$1500 worth of fun and educational toys for local children. It is a true blessing to use proceeds from our signature event, partner with a locally owned business and provide gifts to our community’s precious children during this holiday season. We are grateful beyond measure. Sending you all love and peace this season and always!



Woodstock Rotary Hosts Successful Cocktail Party

Each year, the Woodstock, Vermont Rotary Club hosts a November Cocktail Party at the Woodstock Inn with the funds raised dedicated to a different local charity each year. This year the club raised \$60,000 for the Woodstock Food Shelf which serves many towns in the immediate area as well as in the Upper Valleys of Vermont and New Hampshire. Our Club has grown to over 60 members and continues to find new ways to raise monies for an array of not-for-profit organizations that serve the local communities but also to award scholarships to high school seniors each year. 2025 saw us add Wagon Rides through the Village during foliage season, and a Rec & Rotary Golf Tournament where we combined our efforts with the Woodstock Recreation Center raising \$22,000.

Six New Inductees for Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary celebrated the induction of six new members at the December 4 breakfast meeting at Franklin Pierce University. Led by Membership Chair Russell Gaskamp (pictured from right) were Patty Farmer, Past President of the Keene Elm Rotary Club by transfer, Jim Douglas, Elisha Hodgson, Alex Petit, Carl Pruter, and club President Tom Hsu (far left). New Rotarian Jim Potter was not present for the picture.



These new Rotarians join committed community leaders who provide role models to youth through such programs as the active Conant High School Interact group and many projects of scholarships and international exchange. Support to Santas House, food pantries, shelters and other programs of good will attract new members. Of particular note is the support of Rotary's world-wide mission of service to others through polio eradication and "water for the world". Members benefit from fellowship among business and professional leaders in the community at breakfast meetings and social gatherings.

With rituals such as an invocation, pledge of allegiance and the singing of "America the Beautiful", the joy of camaraderie becomes even more special when members establish closer personal relationships with each other. Brief informative and educational programs also add to the richness of the Jaffrey Rindge Rotary gatherings, dedicated to "Service Above Self". If you are interested in knowing more about Rotary and the Jaffrey Rindge Rotary Club, please visit our website <https://jrrotary.org> or email us at contact@jrrotary.org.



Hopkinton Rotary Hosts “Cornhole Cup”

Members of the Hopkinton Rotary Club Cornhole Tournament team hoist the “Cornhole Cup” ...champions of the semi annual 2025 tournament convened at Alan’s Restaurant in Boscawen NH on 11/19/25 .



Hopkinton defended its title in a one game “winner take all” against the Capital City Sunrise Club following one game elimination games with the Concord and Bow Rotary Clubs .

Their second consecutive win established Hopkinton as an area Rotary Cornhole powerhouse, serving as a further incentive for Concord, Bow and Capital City to claim ownership of the “Cup” at the May, 2026 tournament.

PHOTO (L-R) Deb Norris, Kim Burgess, Ken Traum (President , standing behind trophy), Dave Feller(kneeling) , Sean Skabo and Steve Rothenberg.

Congratulations Hopkinton 🍷 See you in May 😊

Ludlow Rotary Awards Grant to Mount Holly Elementary School

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) awarded the Mount Holly Elementary School a check in the amount of \$3,000.

The School’s music program was the beneficiary of a Rotary grant to purchase risers for concerts, plays or other events. Previously, the school had to bring risers from Ludlow Elementary School for concerts.



As shown in the photo, LRC President Elect, Brigid Sullivan, presented the check to Mount Holly Music Teacher Mary Barron, and Principal Craig Hutt Vater.

“This represents the long-term policy of both the LRC and Rotary International to support the educational needs of public schools,” commented Sullivan. She added that projects like the risers are complemented by LRC’s distribution of books to elementary schools and individual students as well as scholarships to graduating high school seniors planning to attend college.



Rebecca Friend Addresses Capital City Sunrise Rotary

Rebecca Friend, Concord Rotary Club Board of Directors member and Chief Executive Officer/ President of the Better Business Bureau serving New Hampshire, addressed the Capital City Sunrise Rotary on 12/4/25.

She spoke of the Better Business Bureau's role in assisting New Hampshire's business community attain a viable and mutually beneficial relationship with consumers by highlighting credible and responsible companies and "providing educational resources to help businesses succeed. "

With an M. Ed. in educational leadership and an elementary school teaching history, a children's book, selected by "Becca" from a list provided by the "Sunrise" Club, will be donated in her name , to the Children's Room at the Concord Public Library.

Rebecca's Rotary tenure and professional career choices epitomize the principles of Rotary's 4 Way Test.



Hopkinton Hosts Cornhole Tournament #2

Members, friends and guests of the Hopkinton, Capital City Sunrise, Concord and Bow Rotary Clubs gathered for a group photo following the conclusion of the 11/19/25 Cornhole Tournament at Alan's Restaurant in Boscawen, NH .

A semi-annual Tournament, the event has expanded from its inaugural two Club Concord vs. Capital City Sunrise competition in November, 2024 (Concord won that one), to a four Club production.

Scores of Club members, friends and family members gather twice a year at Alan's restaurant for a friendly evening of light hearted competition, food , beverages and fellowship.



District Governor Donna Deos , accompanied by District Governor-elect Ruth Clough , tossed the “ first beanbag “ to open the event that evening as Josh Hardy of Concord Community Television filmed video snippets.

Each Club contributed \$250 to a \$1000 total purse, with the first and second place finishers , Hopkinton and Capital City Sunrise, donating \$750 and \$250, respectively, to a charitable cause . An evening of good natured competition with the ultimate beneficiaries people in our communities... in need .

A special thank you to Alan’s Restaurant in Boscawen , for their welcoming and generous accommodations.”

International

International Coffee with JB - An Informal Zoom Get Together

The next International Coffee With JB will be held at **8:30AM** on **Friday, Dec. 5th**. You can join by using the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78773960966?pwd=QkFlTTZkdDJyRzJIa3phTmhzam1kQT09>

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 2, 2026, as PDG Randell Barclay will be at the International Coffee with JB to share his insights on Rotary Project Fairs, with a spotlight on the recent West Africa Project Fair (WAPF) held in Lomé, Togo.

Randell brings a wealth of experience to this topic—he currently serves as our District’s Rotary Foundation Stewardship Chair, as well as the PolioPlus Society and Paul Harris Society Chair. Randell is a member of the Rotary Foundation’s Arch Klumph Society.

With firsthand participation in four in-person project fairs and two virtual fairs, Randell offers a unique global perspective on how project fairs foster lasting Rotary partnerships. His involvement in more than 25 Global Grants and International District Grants gives him a deep insight into the power of international collaboration.

Rotary
District 7870

COFFEE WITH JB

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026,
8:30 - 9:30 AM**

**ONLINE CHAT AND Q&A WITH
RANDELL BARCLAY**

District 7870's Past District Governor

PRESENTATION
Randell Barclay will be talking about Project Fairs and the most recent West Africa Project Fair in Lomé, Togo.

Q&A PERIOD
There will be a Question and Answer period for about 20 additional minutes.

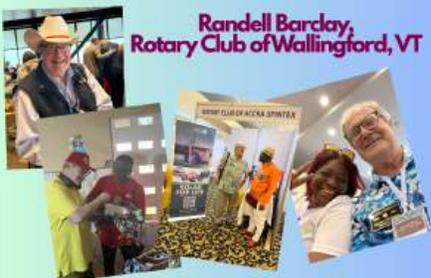
QUESTIONS
Questions should be submitted in advance to ensure timeliness and guest preparation.

CONTACT jay@rotist.com

Zoom LINK Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78423360494?pwd=QkFlTTZkdDJyRzJIa3phTmhzam1kQT09>



Whether you're a seasoned grant writer or exploring global service for the first time, this presentation will guide you through the process of finding and implementing international service projects.



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UNITE FOR GOOD

Amigo de Honduras Mission Team Trip - Jan. 31-Feb. 7, 2026

As noted previously, the 2026 Amigos de Honduras mission team is beginning preparation for their mission trip which is scheduled to leave on Saturday, January 31st and return on Saturday, February 7th.

The team roster has been filled and, under the guidance of Vice Chair, Jill Pierson, the planning for the mission is well underway.

As in the past, our team requires medical supplies and many of these items can be purchased over the counter. Attached is a list of needed supplies and if your club, or your club members, would like to donate supplies, go to the attached list and click on the item and it will tell you where these can be purchased. If you do this, we'd ask that you contact our Medical Supplies Coordinator, Jeanne Conde, at jeannec@simpleportals.com to let her know which supplies you are going to acquire so we don't over purchase any items.

If instead you'd like to make a cash donation for medical supplies, but would prefer the Amigos Committee to make the purchases, that would be great. Please make checks payable to Amigos de Honduras and send your donations to my address which is noted in the header above. Whichever



approach you choose, we need to have this completed by the end of September due to the documentation requirements.

Last year, my Bow club had already made a generous donation for the projects. But, then they passed the hat and members generously contributed toward the purchase of medical supplies and the club matched those donations. This resulted in a second donation being made with the express purpose of purchasing medical supplies.

However, your club and your club members decide to contribute, we very much appreciate your support.

This year's trip will have the same three areas of focus as with previous trips: medical and dental brigade, school construction, and a water and sanitation project. Typically the projects on these mission trips require funds of between \$12,000 and \$18,000.

Please know that 100% of the funds that are contributed will go to the projects, as our team members fund their own travel expenses and the administrative costs are donated.

The Rotary International District 7870 Foundation is a 501c3 charitable organization under the rules of the Internal Revenue Service. Our Tax ID is 26-0197796.

If you would like a copy of our 2025 report, please email me at cep617@comcast.net The report highlights this past mission trip, but also provides an overview of our activities over the past 25 years. Also, please let me know if you would like one of us to present to your Rotary Club.

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Parkinson, Past District Governor and Chair of Amigos De Honduras



Fundraisers

Raffle Tickets Still Available to Support Ukrainian Humanitarian Projects

Raffle tickets are still available to support Ukrainian humanitarian projects.

If you like to ski and are interested in supporting Ukrainian humanitarian projects, this raffle is for you! The Claremont-Sugar River Rotary Club is raffling a \$200 gift certificate for a one-night getaway at the Common Man Inn and Restaurant in Claremont. Located on the banks of the Sugar River, the Inn is within 30 minutes of ski resorts in both New Hampshire and Vermont. Ski a day in one state, enjoy a stay in a luxurious room, and wake up fresh for another day of skiing elsewhere.



Raffle tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will be held once 100 tickets are sold. All proceeds will benefit club or district projects for Ukrainians who are facing another winter in wartime. Raffle tickets can be purchased online at [Common Man Inn Getaway](https://www.commonmaninn.com). The gift certificate is valid for a mid-week stay, subject to availability and date restrictions.

For more information about the Common Man Inn and Restaurant in Claremont, please visit their website at [Home - The Common Man Inn Claremont](https://www.commonmaninn.com)

Together we can make a difference!

Charlene Lovett
Claremont-Sugar River Rotary, Past President



Rotary Club of Nashua - Charity Car Raffle - Jan. 5 and Grand Prize on March 4, 2026

We increased the cash prize option to \$40,000! Get your ticket to be included in the next two \$500 early bird drawings. Winning early bird tickets remain in the drawing for the Grand Prize. More information and tickets purchases at www.nashuarotary.org



Rotary Club of Nashua
6th Annual **Charity Car Raffle**

2026 BMW X3 30 xDrive OR \$40,000 CASH!

THREE \$500 EARLYBIRD DRAWINGS!
Nov 3, Dec 1 & Jan 5
Winning tickets remain in drawing for Grand Prize

ONLY 1000 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!
Ticket Price: \$100

PURCHASE TICKETS & MORE INFO
www.NashuaRotary.org

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
March 4, 2026 @ Tulley BMW of Nashua

Miscellaneous

District Calendar

So much going on within the clubs in the district! Be sure to regularly check this District Calendar of Events: <http://rotary7870.org/events/calendar>

Do you have an entry for the District online calendar? Please email your entry to: prrotary7870@gmail.com.



Months of the Rotary Year

Many months of the year are designated by Rotary International for special significance.

July – Maternal and Child Health Month

August – Membership & Extension Month

September – Basic Education and Literacy Month

October – Economic and Community Development Month

November – Rotary Foundation Month

December – Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

January – Vocational Service Month

February – Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

March – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

April – Environment Month

May – Youth Service Month

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

Have Something You'd Like to Share with the Entire District?

Updates and short (1 page) articles, along with images (**Word and JPEGs only. NO PDFs please**) may be submitted to Martin Cohn and Maureen Mooney at prrotary7870@gmail.com to be included in the Monthly Newsletter. **Please limit your photos to one per article.** The District Newsletter is a means of communicating with other clubs in our district: items of interest, upcoming events, fundraisers or opportunities for service. **Deadline for next newsletter submissions: January 14th, 2026 at 6 PM.**

Website and Social Media

Be sure to check (and share) the Rotary District 7870 **website** at: www.rotary7870.org.

Be sure to join (and share) the Rotary District 7870 **Facebook page** here:

