

**DECEMBER 2014**  
**Newsletter**

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**Governor's Message**

*By Val Callahan*

Greetings of the season. As we Light Up Rotary, we are lighting candles, instead of cursing the darkness. As a result, the world is a better place for our efforts.

This issue of our newsletter shines the light on what Rotarians do best - giving. You will read about the Gift of Life and the gift of clean water, plus countless other vital projects. In order to do these projects, we are fueled by The Rotary Foundation. Fortunately, the generosity of this district is now better than ever.



For example, this month, Dr. **Satya** and **Sheema Mitra** (*shown, left, at the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Australia*) became Major Donors - just in time for holiday celebrations. Past District Governor **Carol Toomey**, another Major Donor, times three, just spearheaded a successful New Generations Forum at the Boxboro Holiday Inn, which welcomed Rotarians from seven different districts. We heard from Earlyactors, Interactors and Rotaractors. We listened to compelling stories from students

at WPI and Brandeis. You will read an article by **Katie Picchione**, president of the WPI Rotaract Club, on [page 3](#).

District 7910 Rotarians gathered on December 7 at the Tower Hill Botanical Garden in Boylston for the District Governor's Annual Holiday Party. The setting was beautiful and all had a fine time. [Click here or on image](#) for our Facebook photo album of this festive event. *Shown, right, I am posing with **Karin Gaffney**, District 7910 assistant governor and chair of the Local Projects and Speaker Committees for the Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley, during the Holiday Party.*



Congratulations to **Dennis Laplante**, president of the Rotary Club of Milford, for earning a Paul Harris Fellow Award. He was one of seven Milford Rotarians to receive either a Fellow or an Honorary Fellow award. *Shown, left, I am posing with Dennis during Rotary Milford's annual Foundation Awards luncheon on December 9 in Medway.*

Two quick announcements:

1. If a member has left your club, please remove that name from Rotary International rosters so that you do not get charged under the new billing system, which begins January 1, 2015. Further details are featured in the article titled "Coming This January: New, Simple Rotary Invoice" by **John Hewko**, in the [November issue](#).
2. If you want to be the team leader or participant in the Friendship Exchange to Venice, Italy in June 2015, please apply to **Indira Desai** of the [Rotary Club of Newton](#) as soon as possible. [Click here](#) to e-mail Indira.

Sadly, one of our Past District Governors, **Peter C. Sanders**, recently passed away. PDG Peter served our district with distinction, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this time.

May you and your family have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. May your New Year be filled with the promise of Lighting Up Rotary.

You may contact me at [Valentine.Callahan@gmail.com](mailto:Valentine.Callahan@gmail.com).

## Help A Family Celebrate The Life Of Their Child

By Cheryl Rosen



Our first [Gift of Life New England](#) child underwent open-heart surgery on August 14, 2000 at Boston Children's Hospital. Jonathan, from Ecuador, had both a hole between the chambers of his heart and a mitral valve repaired, literally giving him the Gift of Life.

This was just the beginning! Since then, Gift of Life New England has added Tufts Floating Hospital for Children and Massachusetts General Hospital, both in Boston, and the Barbara Bush Hospital at the Maine Medical Center in Portland, to provide heart surgeries due to the expanded need in saving children's lives. By 2014, Gift of Life New England had saved well over 100 children's lives locally.

Due in part to The Rotary Foundation's Global Grants, sustainable missions have allowed many more children to receive surgeries within their own country as well as future surgeries to continue well beyond the initial mission. In one such mission abroad, Gift of Life New England joined with other groups to provide surgeries for up to 35 children. In another mission, surgical equipment was provided to help a medical team in the Dominican Republic.

Gift of Life New England continues to work on the coordination and scheduling of surgeries, transportation, translators, housing (host families), fundraising, publicity, and expansion of the program throughout neighboring Rotary districts within central and northeastern New England.



*Shown, left to right, are Sofia, Melvin and Valeria, three of the children who have received the Gift of Life.*

In order to make this wonderful program continue to succeed, we need your help, your time, your talents, and your contributions to enable us to provide countless other children with the Gift of Life. *During this holiday season, won't you celebrate by making a donation to help a child receive the Gift of Life?*

Gift of Life New England is a 501(c)3 charitable, non-profit organization. Individual, Rotary Club, and corporate donations are welcome. Donations can be mailed to GOLNE Treasurer **Ted Shaughnessy** at 290 Edgewater Drive, Needham, MA 02492.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!



*Cheryl Rosen is 2012-'14 president of Gift of Life of New England, current district archivist, past district secretary and past district trustee of Rotary District 7910, and a member of the Rotary Club of Hudson. For more information about Gift of Life New England, having a committee member speak at your club, or volunteering your time, you may contact her at 508-791-9283 or [CherylR@TIAC.net](mailto:CherylR@TIAC.net).*

## **EWB-USA WPI Partners With WPI Rotaract And Rotary International**

*By Katie Picchione*

Over the summer of 2014, the [WPI chapter of Engineers Without Borders USA](#) connected with Rotary International. Through a partnership with the Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley, the Rotary Club of Worcester, and the WPI Rotaract Club, the team will be receiving a Rotary International Global Grant of \$35,000 to complete the implementation phase of the Guatemala Rainwater Harvesting project in May 2015.

The team (*shown, right, with residents in Guachtuq, Guatemala*) has



been busy gaining support from Rotary Clubs throughout the region with presentations at their weekly meetings.

Recently, team members were featured on [The Business Beat](#) on 90.5 WICN and in the Worcester [Telegram & Gazette](#) for the work they have completed and the accomplishments the implementation trip next May will achieve.



*Shown, left to right, are: Jessie Ciulla, vice president of EWB-USA WPI; Thomas Moutinho, president of EWB-USA WPI; Amanda Gatz, Member Development Committee chair of EWB-USA WPI; Carl Gomes, a member of the Rotary Club of Worcester, which sponsors the WPI Rotaract Club; Katie Picchione, Fundraising Committee chair of EWB-USA WPI and president of the WPI Rotaract Club; Mina Femino, president of the Rotary Club of Littleton; and Richard Simon, president of the Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley. Photo: Skip Doyle.*

This partnership has also led to raising awareness of water issues at home. A team of EWB members is advising a group of WPI Great Problems Seminar students and WPI Rotaractors, who are working with sixth-graders at Tatnuck Magnet School in Worcester to learn about global water trends. Ultimately, the group will build a rainwater-harvesting system to maintain Tatnuck's community-garden boxes. Watch for updates as this project unfolds!



*Katie Picchione, Fundraising Committee chair of the WPI chapter of Engineers Without Borders-USA and president of the WPI Rotaract Club, may be reached at [KRPicchione@WPI.edu](mailto:KRPicchione@WPI.edu).*

## Save The Dates



- **Jan. 14:** [District 7910 Forum: Social Media and Rotary](#), Doubletree Hotel, Leominster. For more information, contact **Laura Spear** at [Laura@Spear.net](mailto:Laura@Spear.net), or [see invitation on page 7](#).
- **Jan. 22:** [Rotary Forum: The Power of Change: Improving the Lives of Women](#), 7 to 8 p.m., Fenn School, Concord

RSVP at [Info@NashobaRotary.org](mailto:Info@NashobaRotary.org) or 978-627-4135.

For more information, contact **Karin Gaffney** at [Karin.Gaffney@RocklandTrust.com](mailto:Karin.Gaffney@RocklandTrust.com).



## Rotary Forum

# The Power of Change: Improving the Lives of Women

Discover how leading organizations work selflessly to develop solutions to the many challenges facing women, locally and around the world.

The evening will feature a panel discussion by three community leaders whose work advances the lives of women. Rotary will recognize these humanitarians as **Agents of Change.**

Coffee and Dessert to follow the program

Through education, we can become empowered: listen, learn, support their efforts and lead your own cultural shifts. Help build a more peaceful and more equitable world.

Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Nashoba Valley and Concord in recognition of  
***25 years of Women in Rotary***

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## Become Inspired

**THURSDAY, January 22, 2015** (Snow Date: 1/29/2015)

Fenn School, WARD HALL, 516 Monument Street, Concord

**7 pm - 8 pm • Doors open at 6:30pm**

Free Admission, Contributions to participating organizations welcome

*Featuring: Razia Jan, Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation*

*Craig Norberg-Bohm, Jane Doe Inc.*

*Governor, Valentine Callahan, Rotary District 7910*

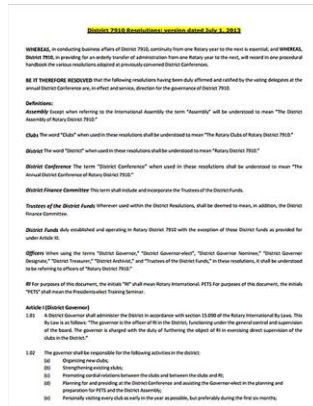
**Register at: [www.rotary7910.org](http://www.rotary7910.org) or 978-627-4135**



**JOIN LEADERS | EXCHANGE IDEAS | TAKE ACTION**

# D7910 Resolutions Committee Conducting Annual Review

By Thomas Polito



The District 7910 Resolutions Committee is conducting an annual review of the Resolutions of the District. Any qualified club in good standing in the district - upon vote of that club as well as the District Governor, the District Trustees, the District Council, or the District Resolutions Committee - may propose changes to the District Resolutions in accordance with this article.

Changes may include amendments, alterations, or repeal in whole or in part of the Resolutions by a majority vote of the voting delegates present at the Annual District Conference.

[Click here or on image](#) for a full copy of the District Resolutions, in PDF format.

Should your club decide to submit a proposal to the Resolutions Committee to change the Resolutions at the 2014 Annual District Conference, you must:

1. Be a Club in District 7910 in good standing;
2. Submit your proposed changes in writing to the District Secretary, postmarked no later than February 16, 2015; and
3. Submit a copy of your proposed changes in writing to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee, postmarked no later than February 16, 2015.

Once you submit your proposal:

1. The District Resolutions Committee shall send to the District Secretary its recommendations regarding any proposed changes no later than March 31, 2015; and
2. The District Secretary shall disseminate the recommendations of the District Resolutions Committee by April 15, 2015.

As always, the District Resolutions Committee and the entire district leadership extend to you our most heartfelt appreciation for your leadership and service to community through Rotary.



Thomas Polito, 2014-'15 District 7910 Resolutions Committee chair and 2011-'12 D7910 governor, may be contacted at [Tom@PolitoInsurance.com](mailto:Tom@PolitoInsurance.com) or 781-329-4160.

## Speakers Who Have Presented At D7910 Clubs



- **Speaker:** [Sajid Baseer Shaikh](#), Rotary Club of Lahore, Pakistan
- **Subject:** Polio in Pakistan ([Click here or on image](#) for a YouTube video of his presentation)
- **Club:** Hudson, October 7, 2014
- **Contact:** Cheryl Rosen, Rotary Club of Hudson, 508-791-9283 or [CherylR@TIAC.net](mailto:CherylR@TIAC.net)
- [Click here](#) for the D7910 Speakers Bureau

[Click here or on image to register online for the District 7910 Social Media Forum](#)

[Click here to e-mail Laura Spear, Chair, D7910 Public Image Committee](#)

## DISTRICT 7910 SOCIAL MEDIA FORUM

Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
Doubletree Hotel, Leominster

**FREE** to attend

6:30-7:00 PM Registration,  
fellowship

7:00-8:30 PM Workshop  
presentations

Complimentary appetizers and  
sodas, cash bar

Register on the District 7910  
website: [www.rotary7910.org](http://www.rotary7910.org)  
or contact Laura Spear,  
District Public Image Chair,  
[laura@spear.net](mailto:laura@spear.net), 978-562-4521



## SOCIAL MEDIA AND ROTARY

Confused about what social media is? Wonder how to use social media with younger, potential members and New Generations? Have a personal Facebook page but don't know how to use social media to promote your club and projects? This forum's for **YOU!**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 6:30 PM | REGISTRATION, beverages, appetizers, and fellowship   |
| 7:00 PM | WELCOME<br>SOCIAL MEDIA 101 AND ETIQUETTE: Steve D'Agostino,<br>Susan Wagner PR + Best Rate of Climb and Rotary Club of Worcester<br>- Overview of social media options and when and how to use what tool |
| 7:30 PM | SOCIAL MEDIA FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS AND NEW GENERATIONS: Panel<br>presentation led by Ben Burger, past RYLA student from the Marlboro Rotary Club  |
| 8:00 PM | SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CLUB AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: Amy Luckiewicz,<br>Wakefield Rotary Club, District 7930<br>- Case study of how the Wakefield Rotary Club uses Social Media for public image                  |



JOIN LEADERS | EXCHANGE IDEAS | TAKE ACTION

# Rotary Worcester Visits Seven Hills Charter Public School

By David Frazier

The [Rotary Club of Worcester](#) held its October 30 weekly meeting at [Seven Hills Charter Public School](#) in Worcester, which is located near the Shrewsbury Street restaurant district. Fifty Worcester Rotarians enjoyed box lunches, just like the students. Not quite the fine dining that we are used to, but the meal was healthy and nutritious, unlike the hot dogs and potato chips we grew up on.



Shown are Worcester Rotarians and Seven Hills Charter staff and students during Rotary Worcester's October 30 visit to the public school. Photo: **Frank Doherty**

[Click here or on image](#) to view full versions of this and other photos.

While there, we learned a lot. Students are those who typically don't succeed in mainstream public schools, and 84 percent of their families live below the federal poverty guideline. Much of the student's educational success hinges on the efforts of the staff and visitors from the community. The student mix is: 45 percent, African-American; 45 percent, Hispanic; and 8 percent, white. Twenty-six percent of these children speak English as a second language. Another 10 percent are deemed "special needs."

This is a great place. The kids are both confident and happy and the school has achieved Level 1 status, which means its students are performing as expected, based on standardized curriculum - quite the achievement.

However, the price for Level 1 status is extended hours and a longer school year. This record would also be impossible without a committed and energetic group of teachers, who work tirelessly under a one-year contract. The school itself must meet rigorous standards to renew its contract every five years.



At lunch, we were treated to a rousing performance by the school's Stomp Team (*shown, left*) and students took to the podium to share their impressions of the school, their futures and their involvement in our community. Afterward, we broke into small groups, visiting classrooms to view student progress and teachers in action. Students of varying educational levels are integrated in classrooms. The "English Language Arts" sixth-grade class I attended had two instructors - class size was in the mid-20s. Students

were highly engaged in the writing lesson, and were kept in the flow at all times by one of the two instructors who circulated and provided support with essay writing. One instructor focused on content, while the other was focused on sentence structure and other mechanics.

I noticed an extensive library of 200 to 300 well-worn books in the room. When I asked later about the



origin of the books, I learned that many teachers buy them. I was even more surprised to learn that the teachers also buy clothes for the kids as well as other things. The school regularly holds book, food and clothing drives, and even has a “giving tree” to provide items for families in need. The staff is the biggest contributor to all of these programs.

Non-charter public schools and their school committees and teachers unions view charter-school programs as competitors for state education funds. As a consequence, cooperation by non-charter public schools with charter schools is rare. For example, Seven Hills Charter can't get scholastic information about graduated students once they enter high school, even though they have been granted permission to do so by the parents and students.



Rotary Worcester has become very active with Seven Hills Charter. Many of us have participated in the enrichment process by visiting kids in class and speaking about our college and career experiences. After our recent club visit, increasing awareness of the school's success with students and need for support prompted our club to commit to raising funds for a Digital Library. Books have a shelf life of less than six years, while a Kindle-based Library could last much, much longer.



On March 15, 2015, Rotary Worcester will be hosting a dinner, auction and dance to raise funds for the Digital Library. Our minimum goal is \$25,000. However, after our highly successful 2014 fundraising event, we hope to reach the amount required to fund the Library at a level that will provide sufficient access to Kindles and online books for all of the students who need them.

We hope our fellow Rotarians in District 7910 will recognize, as we do, how important a successful education is to ending the cycle of poverty that traps families from one generation to the next. Seven Hills Charter's success with their kids empowers those students to pursue the American Dream - and often realize it.

[Click here or on image](#) to listen to a radio interview, in MP3 format, with Seven Hills Charter Superintendent **Krista Piazza** (*shown, center*), Seven Hills Charter Board of Trustees Chair **Amy Ebbeson** (*shown, left*) and me, Rotary Club of Worcester President **David Frazier** (*shown, right*). The 29-minute interview aired recently on 90.5 WICN.

If you would like to help fund the Seven Hills Charter's Digital Library, contribute an auction item or attend our March 15, 2015 dinner, you may contact me at [DaveMFraz@yahoo.com](mailto:DaveMFraz@yahoo.com) or 508-753-7300.



# Give The Gift Of Rotary

[Click here](#) to give now, online.



Every year, hundreds of thousands of people benefit from projects funded by The Rotary Foundation.

Although Rotary gives back in countless ways, we focus our service efforts in six areas: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local communities.

A gift of any size allows us to create positive, lasting change.

\*Your gift will support projects like those shown here, though not directly purchasing the items listed.

**Take Action: Give Now**

I want to change lives through Rotary

The gifts in this catalog show how even a small donation to Rotary can lead to life-changing projects in our six areas of focus. A monthly gift of any amount allows Rotary to do more for those in need. Give online now at: [www.rotary.org/givethegift](http://www.rotary.org/givethegift)

**Gift amount:**  
 \$10  \$25  \$50  \$65  \$100  
 \$250  \$500  Make this a monthly gift  
 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please direct my gift to (choose one):**  
 Where the need is greatest (eligible for SHARE)  
 Educating Public  
 Promoting peace  
 Fighting disease  
 Providing clean water  
 Saving mothers and children  
 Supporting education  
 Growing local economies

Member ID \_\_\_\_\_ Club name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover  
 Card number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration date MM/YY \_\_\_\_\_ CVN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check enclosed, payable to the Rotary Foundation  
 Please contact me about creating a legacy with Rotary

Mail to: The Rotary Foundation, 14200 Collection Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60603-2142  
 FORM 000001

**GIVE THE GIFT OF ROTARY AROUND THE WORLD**

**\$10 MOSQUITO BED NET**  
 In countries like Uganda, where malaria is a major health concern, bed nets offer a safe, peaceful night's rest.



**\$50 WATER FILTER**  
 In rural Guatemala, deadly waterborne diseases are common. Personal water filters can create access to this basic need.



**\$100 FOLDING WALKER**  
 Walkers and wheelchairs offer long term health improvement, access to education, and improved economic security.



**\$250 CERAMIC WASHBASIN**  
 Ceramic washbasins give mothers living in domestic violence shelters the means to bathe and care for their babies and families.



**\$25 SCHOOL UNIFORM**  
 For students everywhere, succeeding in school starts with dressing the part. The gift of a school uniform can open the doors to education for one child.



**\$85 BOX OF PURPLE MARKERS**  
 After children receive the polio vaccine, their pinky fingers are marked. This is an effective way to show they have been immunized.



**\$100 SEWING MACHINE**  
 Within Rotary microfinance training, sewing machines are used to show entrepreneurs how to turn sewing skills into a business.



**\$500 COW**  
 Besides providing dairy products, cows produce calves that farmers in Cambodia can sell to support their families.



## District Grants Made Easy

By Ralph Hammond



To learn how to do a Rotary International Global Grant, do a district grant first. Same thing.

### Steps to a district grant

“First come, first served” and “being fair to all concerned,” are the District 7910 standards.

1. Between January and September (closer to January, the better), contact either me or your District Grant Area Team Leader, and provide *only* the following information:
  - a. Your name
  - b. Club name
  - c. E-mail address
  - d. Project title
  - e. Tentative total budget request.

Your club name and project will be placed in my “Sunday Morning Hints and Tips” e-mail blast, and you will be sent the weekly “Grant Status Report” along with the “Club and TRF Stats.” This information will

keep you posted on your club certification and grant-funding status. Submitting a project title, only, indicates your club is interested in taking on a project, allows the district to receive funding, and *does not* in anyway require you to do that exact, same project. Only *fully completed* grant applications can lock in tentative funding for your specific project.

2. When the above information is received, the “all-in-one” District Grant Proposal/Application/Final Report Form will be sent to you.
3. To receive Priority Status prior to June 15, your club must become *fully certified* by:
  - a. Signing and submitting the memorandum of understanding;
  - b. Having one member of your club trained; and
  - c. Meeting the Annual Fund Contribution Goal. Watch the weekly “Club and TRF Stats” for your club’s status.
4. Submit the Project Proposal to your Grant Area Team Leader, making sure to Cc: me, Ralph Hammond. Only the items marked with an asterisk (\*) need to be completed. The District Stewardship Team will review your proposal for possible approval. Funding is provided on a first-come-first-served basis, while funding remains for “fully certified” clubs with Priority Status. Watch the weekly “District Grant Status Report” for your project status. Both I and your District Grant Area Team leader look forward to helping you at every step of this process.
5. Submit a fully completed Grant Application.
6. If the Application is complete and the district still has money, the District Area Grant Team Leader would send you an Official Approval Letter, at which time, funding for reimbursement for your project would tentatively be locked in and you could begin spending money on your project. Projects begun prior to approval *will not* receive district grant funds.
7. Set up or use your club’s previous special-project account and deposit, and make certain the total funding for your project is in that account. Because projects involve 501(c)3 charitable, non-profit funding, *only this account* - and no other club accounts - could become eligible for an IRS audit.
8. Complete your project using cash from the special-project account. and save copies of all checks, bank statements, receipts, and at least one photo for the Final Report.
9. Complete the Final Report Form found at the very end of your Proposal/Application/Final Report Form, and send the Fully Completed Project Report to your Grant Area Team Leader.
10. Fully completed Final Reports will be sent to the District Grant Treasurer. Then, the agreed-on District Grant Match/Reimbursement of up to \$1,500 by check will be sent back to the Key Contact Rotarian for that project. (Suggestion: Deposit the \$1,500 back into that special account for your next district grant project.)
11. Your project at that point will be declared Officially Closed.

### **Important hints and tips**

1. Spend money on your projects that comes *only* from your Club Special Project Account.
2. Only by submitting your Fully Completed Grant Application, can you tentatively lock in the up-to-\$1,500

district reimbursement.

3. Only by submitting your Fully Completed Grant Final Report, can you for certain receive the up-to-\$1,500 district reimbursement.
4. If fully completed Final Reports *are not* submitted by April 15, your anticipated reimbursement would go to other projects of other clubs on a Funding Hold.
5. Clubs without Priority Status, and/or clubs submitting a second or third grant application will qualify for the Funding Hold lottery held on November 30. The lottery will establish your project's position in the Funding Hold queue.
6. Those in the Funding Hold queue would qualify for reimbursement from remaining funds only if the previously qualified clubs fail to submit final reports by April 15.
7. The Pre-Grant Cycle begins on January 1. The Actual Grant Cycle begins on April 1 and extends to March 30. In the past, District 7910 has received approval from The Rotary Foundation to begin spending money on projects beginning in May. It is our April 15 deadline that allows that to happen.
8. *Key tip:* Request a previously completed grant application for a similar project, to serve as a sample example and assist with your grant-writing experience.
9. Your club has generously contributed to The Rotary Foundation, and this is an opportunity to utilize some of the kindness you previously shared. Becoming involved with more than one project and/or taking on a Global International Project, will actually allow your club to receive more money from the Foundation than many clubs generally contribute each year.
10. Build a partnership with neighboring clubs for larger-sized projects. In the past, we have had district-grant projects exceeding the \$10,000-budget amount. Partnering on Global Grants can generate a \$35,000 project or above – sometimes, for less than \$2,000. Your contribution to the Annual Fund through The Rotary Foundation will make wonderful things happen.



*Ralph Hammond, chair of the District Grant Subcommittee and executive secretary of the Rotary Club of Bedford, may be reached at [Ralph.Hammond@verizon.net](mailto:Ralph.Hammond@verizon.net) or 781-275-2373.*

## For More Information



Questions? Have something you want to share? Contact Governor **Val Callahan** at [Valentine.Callahan@gmail.com](mailto:Valentine.Callahan@gmail.com). To learn more about **District 7910**, visit our [website](#), and join us online at [Facebook](#), [Google+](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). To learn more about **Rotary International**, [click here](#).

## Past Issues

[Click here](#) for **past issues** of *District 7910 Newsletter*.