

# Rotary



## District 7305

The Connector - November, 2019



### Atlanta Zone 33 & 34 Summit

What a week it was. From Tuesday November 19 until Sunday November 25 Rotary International Zones 33 & 34 held their Rotary Leadership Summit in Atlanta, GA.

Tuesday through Thursday was training for DGs, DGEs, DGNs and Emerging Leaders. On Friday and Saturday there were numerous sessions on literacy, hunger, membership, public image, strategic planning and bringing clean water to the entire country of Haiti. Each day had at least one great speaker with a different inspirational message.

There were two particular highlights of the week. The first was getting a chance to meet RIPE Holger Knaack (*see picture on the right*) and hear his vision for his Rotary year. The second was helping to pack 100,000 meals for local needy families through Meals of Hope (*picture below*).

Next year's Rotary Zones 33 & 34 Summit will be on November 19-22, 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square. Don't miss this chance to attend this event on your home turf.



#### Quote of the Month:

*"It is well that there is nothing in Rotary so sacred that it cannot be set aside in favor of things better."*

Paul Harris



### Hawaii - Act Now to Save a Lot

If you have attended a District Conference, a Zone Institute or, better yet, a Rotary International Convention, you should certainly understand what the Rotary "Family" thing is all about. Those who have not taken the opportunity to do so can't really "get it".

Although the local Rotary Clubs are the foundation and the most important entity in our 114 year

#### *A sample of Host Committee activities at the RI Convention in Honolulu, HI:*

##### • **June 6: 3-mile walk for Peace**

*Join us at beautiful Ala Moana Beach Park, for our Walk for Peace. Starting at sunrise, participants will meet at the beach park at 6:30 AM and enjoy a leisurely 3-mile stroll around the park, as the sun rises over iconic Diamond Head Crater.*

##### • **June 6: Service Projects**

*From sustainable aquaculture to resource management, native Hawaiians cared for the land and the sea, with practices that can benefit the future. Rotarians can work with local nonprofit organizations dedicated to caring for two historic ancient Hawaiian fishponds located in Windward Oahu. Be part of the effort to improve and care for these culturally significant areas.*

old international club, seeing and understanding the "Rotary Family" concept, at one of the larger gatherings mentioned above, is really about the only way to truly experience what it means.

Rotary's first International Convention was held in Chicago in 1914, when the club was just nine years old and had 60 people attend. Such conventions continue to be held every year in cities all around the world, and typically have 25,000 to 40,000 in attendance.

The next RI Convention will take place in the beautiful city of Honolulu, Hawaii, next June 6-10, 2020. A dream destination for many, this promises to be a fantastic event, which will most certainly provide the opportunity for folks to experience the Rotary "Family" idea.

The Discount Deadline to register for the Honolulu, RI Convention is fast approaching. You can save anywhere from \$100 to \$200 per person if you register before the December 15 deadline.

Please note that the Convention is open to everybody, Rotarian and non-Rotarian alike. Please also be aware, though, that everyone who enters any of the Convention events, the plenary sessions, meetings, seminars, special meals or even the "House of Friendship" must be registered and have an identification placard visible on their person.

Registration may be done online on the RI Website, [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), or by mail or fax.

You really don't want to miss the RI Convention this year in beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii. Register now so that you can save a lot and not miss out on a Rotary event that you will fondly remember for the rest of your life. You'll be glad you did!

By Walt Sickles



## Somerset Interact Halloween Food Drive

The Interact Club of the Somerset Area High School coordinated a Halloween Food Drive in the month of October to benefit the Somerset Food Pantry. Students, faculty, and staff were encouraged to donate canned goods or make donations. Those who donated the most were awarded with a donut party and gift cards.

The food drive was a huge success with 4,028 food items and \$191 donated to the Somerset Food Pantry.

Somerset Rotarians Jenn Brougher and Sarah Pile are the co-advisors for the Interact Club.

## New Kensington and Burrell Area Food Drive

New Kensington and Burrell Area Rotarians spent the first couple of weeks in November collecting non-perishable food items and paper products to donate to local food pantries. On November 14, they spent part of their weekly meeting packing boxes and loading up an entire SUV full of items to go out into the community.



Somerset Interactors with food items collected during their Halloween Food Drive. **Back row:** Grace Harriy, Emily Li, Masin Wahl, Cassidy Petersen, Abby Grosholz, Shaelyn Walker, Shawna Walker; **Front row:** Alexa Thacker, Lauren Schrift, Shandi Walker

**Above and top:** Members of the North Borough Rotary Club spent Black Friday morning packing 1,000,000 meals in cooperation with Amen to Action, Meals of Hope, and Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

**Center page:** New Kensington and Burrell Area Rotarians packing non-perishable food items for their communities.



## Food for Thanksgiving

What a combined effort! Dr. Norman Johnson, PTA Program Coordinator and Rotarian, Dr. Stephen Bannister, PTA Program Professor, Ashley Evans, President SPTA Class of 2020 and CCAC Student Trustee, and Mark Allston, Rotarian, delivered the Thanksgiving dinners and food items to the Rainbow Kitchen Community Services in Homestead.

The Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club donated turkeys purchased from Kuhn's Market on Beulah Road.

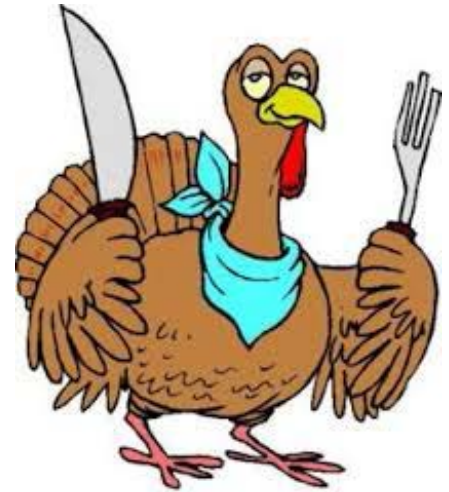
The Student Physical Therapy Association collected and donated dinner food items and Dr. Mike Szoko, Churchill Vision and Laser Center, coordinated the ordering and pick-up to complete the meals which fed over 300 people!



The Parkway West Rotary Club, with help from the Crafton-Ingram Rotary Club, collected food for families serviced by the Salvation Army.

In addition to what the two clubs collected, there was an amazing amount of food collected by the students at David R. Williams Middle School.

Thank you to everyone who helped!



**Left:** The Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club and partners donated turkeys and various food items to the Rainbow Kitchen.

**Above:** The Rotary Clubs of Parkway West and Crafton Ingram, with help from the students at David R. Williams Middle School, collected food for families served by the Salvation Army.



## Community Service Day

On Saturday, November 16, 2019, The North Boroughs RC, in partnership with Northern Allegheny, Quaker Valley RC's along with one member from the E Club and one member from the Shaler RC, completed their Community Service Day at the Verland Foundation, which included a Fall Cleanup of raking leaves, cleaning flower boxes and cutting over growth of bushes and trees along the fence line.

The members from the North Boroughs club included Vickie Buzzelli, Don Huber, Ralph Flaughner, Julie Erickson, Wes Snyder, Dave and Theresa Hutchinson, Wendy Nixon, Joe Heiman along with his wife and son, Rich McDonald, Stu Benson, Tim Greer, Joanne Osborn, James Tallman, Thomas Getty, and Junior Rotarian Lena Voss.



Everyone pitched in as a team and worked very hard to make the cleanup a success. Carol Mitchell, the founder of the Verland Foundation was very thankful for all the work done. She was also very impressed with all of us as Rotarians and everything we stand for.

## Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots began as a Los Angeles charitable effort in 1947. Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, was inspired by his wife Diane as she tried to donate a homemade Raggedy Ann doll to a needy child but couldn't find any organization to do so. At her suggestion, he gathered a group of local Marine reservists who collected some 5,000 toys for local children that year. Their efforts were so successful that, in 1948, Toys for Tots was launched as a national campaign.

Hendricks used his position as director of Public Relations for

Warner Brothers Studio to enlist celebrity support, as well as have Walt Disney Studios design the red toy train logo.

In 1991, the Secretary of Defense authorized the creation and affiliation with the non-profit charity foundation. In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve.

In 2009, the program received support from First Lady Michelle Obama, who placed the first collection box at the White House. In December 2011, she took part in a Toys for Tots activity at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

As of 2016, the Toys for Tots Program and Foundation have collected and distributed more than 512 million toys. *Source: Wikipedia*



On November 27, The Rotary Club of Johnstown was visited by Marine Corps Sergeants Tyrone Carter and Edward Sines. They were at the club meeting to share information on the local Toys for Tots programming.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Club President Sue Martin was more than eager to pose for the traditional picture with our guest speakers.







## Rotary Peace Float in the WPXI Holiday Parade

District 7305 participated in the 2019 WPXI Holiday Parade again this year. It was our 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The weather was sunny and clear, and we had a million laughs along the parade route!

The theme of the float is "Rotary Promotes Peace" and is known to WPXI as the "Rotary Peace Float".

Riding on the float were District Governor Jim Hahn, Ambridge Rotary, PDG Walt Sickles, Ambridge Rotary, District Secretary Sandra Rebholz, Green Tree Rotary, and Harold and Patti Hicks, Delmont-Salem Rotary. Bob Polczynski, Monroeville Rotary, drove the tow vehicle.

Flags of many countries were mounted on the float, with two American flags prominently displayed. The centerpiece of the float was a big Rotary Wheel balloon behind DG Jim Hahn. Two minutes from the start of the parade, the balloon lost power and fell down on the back seat. We were all so sad... But miraculously, a few minutes later, it inflated again and off we went



through to the end of the parade.

As we passed the review stand, six white doves were released from the float and they flew out in perfect formation. White doves are released from the Rotary Peace Float every year, symbolizing Rotary's dedication to peace in the world. Patti Hicks was our "Dove Meister" this year.

Walking alongside the float, Rotary Youth Exchange and Interact Students carried the flags of their own countries.



## Rotary Leadership Institute

The next RLI course day for District 7305 is Saturday, January 11, 2020. Courses Part I, Part II, and part III as well as Graduate will be offered. The venue is the Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Park Campus at 595 Beatty Road, Monroeville, PA. Be sure to register at [rlimainline.org](http://rlimainline.org) before the December 28 deadline.

A typical course day will start with registration at 8 AM followed by a working breakfast at 8:30 AM. After four morning sessions and a mid-morning break, there's a working lunch at 12:30 PM. The afternoon usually consists of three sessions before adjourning at 3:30. Once you're registered, you will get the exact details for your specific course day and location.

Also, please remember that our district will reimburse all district 7305 attendees \$50 of their registration fee upon completion of the course day. This means that you only pay \$25 for some truly invaluable Rotary and leadership training.

After January, the next chance to take this training in our district will be on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Once again, all courses will be offered.

The venue in Johnstown will be the Salvation Army at 576 Vine Street and the registration deadline is March 14.

If you are unsure if this is something for you, please talk to members of your club who have attended previous course dates. We are convinced that you will find that just about everyone who has attended would recommend it for anyone looking to explore Rotary and its opportunities for service.





## Albania Earthquake

You may have heard of the devastating earthquake that hit the city of Durres, in Albania in the early hours of November 26. The earthquake had a magnitude of 6.4 and it has resulted in at least 21 victims and serious damage, leaving many without a roof over their heads.

While search and rescue efforts continue, there is a need for funds to cover food and shelter expenses for those who lost their homes.

The Keystone Rotary Club has decided to raise funds which it will then pass on to the Durres Rotary Club, so they can help everyone on the ground. We would encourage you to consider donating so that we can help our Rotary family in Albania.

PDGs Mark Kessler (7330) and Ruzhdi Bakalli (7280) are asking that we consider assisting those affected through the Albania Earthquake Relief Fund.

If you want to help, please go to: [keystonerotaryclub.org](http://keystonerotaryclub.org) and click on the red relief fund icon at the bottom of the page.

## Deworming Venezuela

At a recent meeting at the Rotary Club of Somerset, Past President and AG Miguel Saviroff introduced fellow Venezuelan Dr. Isis Meyas.

As a prelude to the main speaker, Dr. Meyas described her professional journey and how Rotary was key in helping her find her purpose as a WASH advocate (WA-Water, S-Sanitation, H-Hygiene). Originally from Venezuela, she arrived in the US in 2001. After beginning her undergraduate studies in Houston, TX, she traveled to Kenya to see how the water crisis was affecting millions of people throughout the world.

A Rotary Global Grant Scholarship led her to Sao Paulo, Brazil for a PhD in Environmental Engineering, with emphasis in water treatment. From there she was invited to the Rotary International Convention in 2018 to talk at one of the general sessions about the importance of education in WASH projects. During the convention, she met Dr. Alberto Paniz Mondolfi and the idea of "Deworming Venezuela" was born.

Dr. Alberto Paniz Mondolfi is the Academic Director and Chief of the



### Albania Earthquake Relief Fund

6.4 megnatude - November 26th, 2019



District 7280  
**Rotary**  
Keystone E-Club



*A 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit Albania on November 26 (photo by Bloomberg.com). A disaster relief fund has been set up to assist the victims.*

Division of Infectious Diseases / Tropical Medicine and Dermatopathology at the IDB Clinic in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. He is also head of the Infectious Disease Pathology Laboratory and the Zoonosis and Emerging Pathogens Regional Collaborative Network.

He is licensed to practice in the US, EU and Venezuela as a physician, he is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He has been published extensively in renowned international journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, the Lancet, Science and Nature. He is a specialist in travel medicine and infectious disease and is also a skilled pathologist with



Dr. Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, Miguel Saviroff, Mark Persun, Dr. Isis Mejias  
Photo & Text courtesy of Somerset Rotary

strong research and professional interests in molecular diagnostics of cancer and infectious diseases.

He recently founded the Venezuelan Science Incubator, a nonprofit organization that promotes scientific studies and the use of citizens science to engage communities in real changes that will trans-late into healthier lives.

Dr. Paniz described the situation in Venezuela as a war zone without the war and a "wicked cocktail of economic mismanagement, hyperinflation and black markets, where 66% of the population lives in extreme poverty.

Vector-borne diseases are through the roof, leading to a mass migration out of the country creating a humanitarian and economic crisis in the entire region.

Deworming Venezuela is a project designed to break the cycle of worms, malnutrition and anemia in school-age children and has four objectives: diagnosis of infection, massive deworming treatments, implementation of WASH, and project evaluation.

AG Miguel Saviroff said "I would love to see District Rotary 7305 becoming an international partner in District and Global Grants with the Rotary Club of Barquisimeto to help Venezuelan children." Strong project leadership has allowed the execution of the project so far without government opposition.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Isis Mejias at [isis.mejias@gmail.com](mailto:isis.mejias@gmail.com) or Miguel Saviroff at [msaviroff@gmail.com](mailto:msaviroff@gmail.com) or at 814-442-6568.



## World Affairs Institute

Students from Fox Chapel Area High School and Shady Side Academy who spoke at the Rotary-sponsored 49th Annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders Nov. 13 attended the Fox Chapel Rotary's Nov. 20th weekly luncheon at the Pittsburgh Field Club.

SSA senior Alison Linares Mendoza, junior Qingqing Zhao, and FCAHS sophomore Gabrielle Uku told the Rotarians that the Institute, attended by more than 300 students from 81 high schools throughout Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, was intellectually stimulating and educational.

"It was a life-changing experience," said Gabrielle Uku.

The institute, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and Rotary Clubs throughout the area, this year addressed the topic: "What Will It Take to Achieve a Sustainable World for All?" and focused on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015.

The students listened to speeches in the morning session from Dr. Joylette Portlock, executive director of Sustainable Pittsburgh, Kimberly Kipin-McDonald, head of sustainable development (North America) for Covestro, and Grant Ervin, chief resilience officer and assistant director of the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning.

Then they broke into 17 groups for a "working lunch" where they discussed possible solutions to the topics they were assigned, ranging from eliminating hunger and poverty



**Above:** FCAHS sophomore Gabrielle Uku speaking at the World Affairs Council

**Below:** Fox Chapel Rotary President Nancy Speed, left, recognized at the Nov. 20 Club meeting some of the 14 students the club sponsored to the World Affairs Institute in Pittsburgh. Pictured are, from left: Fox Chapel Area High School Gifted teacher Lisa Gibson, FCAHS sophomore Gabrielle Uku, Shady Side Academy junior Qingqing Zhao, SSA senior Alison Linares Mendoza and SSA history teacher Rachel McCool. At right is Fox Chapel Rotary Youth Committee chair Bill McConnel.

*Photos & text courtesy of Fox Chapel Rotary*

to dealing with climate change.

Each group then chose one or two students to address all of the students in an afternoon session that summarized the group's conclusions.

SSA's Alison Mendoza and FCAHS's Gabrielle Uku and her older sister, Angelique Uku, a senior, each spoke at the afternoon session.

"It's significant that we had so many speakers in the afternoon session," said Nancy Speed, Rotary Club President. "There were a ton of very talented students from throughout the Tri-State at this Institute and these local students obviously stood out, as chosen by their peers."

Accompanying the students at the Institute were Lisa Gibson, FCAHS Gifted Education teacher, Rachel McCool, SSA Chair of the History/Social Studies Department of the Senior School and Leah Powers; an Environmental Science teacher at SSA's senior school.



## World Affairs Council

The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh is the leading forum to ensure that the Pittsburgh region has a dynamic international presence. The Council is a model for promoting international engagement across generations and sectors. It is an essential resource to instill independent, critical thinking about the world and America's role in it.

Established in 1931, The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh's mission is to provide a pathway for a more globally minded region, offering students and the community a learning space that covers key international issues.

In an effort to increase international understanding and engagement throughout the community, the Council:

- serves as the region's key catalyst for sustained international engagement throughout the community, deepening the nuanced understanding of evolving global issues, and fostering informed opinion about world affairs and U.S. foreign policy.
- has a special focus on working with students and teachers at middle schools and high schools throughout the region to give them a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the key global issues of our time.
- prepares the current and successor generations of opinion-leaders and decision-makers to thrive and succeed in the global marketplace.
- promotes a deeper understanding of the diverse international communities in the region in an effort to support over arching regional economic, workforce, and community development objectives.

Through its range of programs and activities, the Council strives to play a key role in the overall development of the region. As a result of the Council's engagement, the city becomes more attractive to highly qualified young professionals, to international corporations seeking new homes, and to those same corporations seeking to promote capable young leaders into global positions.

Source: World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh

## Rotary District 7305

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[www.rotarydistrict7305.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7305.org)

## Aziz Memon - Rotary Foundation Trustee Elect

"Tears were rolling down her cheeks. She was a true embodiment of pain and fatigue. She had huddled to her chest an eleven-year-old boy whose thin legs were hanging down, hampering her while she walked. I was stunned by the scene and stopped. I was curious to ask the woman what had happened to the child she was carrying. The poor woman wiped her tears to reply to me and revealed that out of her six children, three were suffering polio paralysis."

Aziz Memon is narrating his first encounter with a child suffering from polio. The experience proved life changing. Over 22 years, he has risen to become one of the most influential philanthropists working to end polio in Pakistan.

Aziz Memon is a good person to speak to if you want to get an insight into Rotary's work in Pakistan. Chair of the Pakistan National PolioPlus Committee, Aziz is also a member of the International PolioPlus Committee. He has won multiple awards for his work to defeat the virus, and in October was announced as the first incoming Rotary Foundation Trustee to be appointed from Pakistan.

Aziz is most proud of his national committee's work. He explains, "The committee has funded over 200,000 vaccine carriers for the entire EPI programme in Pakistan."

"We have also supported vaccination at borders through permanent transit points, improved routine immunization at Permanent Immunization Centers, and helped provide basic medical care through female health workers. We have improved quality of life for families through solar filtration plants to provide clean water and have educated illiterate communities



through providing speaking books. Rotarians create advocacy in schools, colleges, with Ulemas [Islamic religious scholars] and in their communities."

With the support of Aziz and others, Rotary International has contributed millions of dollars to eradicate polio in Pakistan through the Government, WHO and UNICEF.

### A chance to make history

The global drive to root out polio has some way to go still, with the poliovirus remaining in Afghanistan and Pakistan. To break the impasse an intensive, innovative and persistent effort is required.

"Rotary International's mission to eradicate polio globally is our top priority and Rotary has taken this mission forward and helped and supported governments in other polio endemic countries to eradicate this terrible disease. It will be a privilege to be part of history when polio is eradicated, the second disease to be wiped out after smallpox," Aziz explains.

Aziz reiterates that vaccine hesitancy and misinformation are two of the remaining challenges in the fight against polio in Pakistan.

"Misinformation spread through social media creates fear of the polio vaccine. Some security concerns still persist in tribal areas and there is weak accountability in places."

In response, Rotary is supporting innovative strategies to address the challenges related to vaccine hesitancy. Aziz says, "Hesitancies must be skillfully addressed. We are working with Ulemas and religious scholars in all four provinces to create a positive image. Social media is playing a very strong role in

## Rotary's Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

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?

averting misconceptions."

Rotary is also a critical support to polio survivors who cannot afford their medical expenses. Aziz explains, "Rotary funds WHO to support a rehabilitation programme for polio victims. The Rotary Club of Karachi also sponsors a community project called the Artificial Limb Center which provided prosthesis, calipers, crutches and wheelchair for polio victims and amputees as well as those injured in accidents."

### Dreaming of a polio-free Pakistan

Polio eradication in Pakistan has been a long journey but Aziz is motivated to overcome the remaining challenges.

"I motivate my fellows by nominating them for the Polio Free Service awards; publicizing their projects and activities in the monthly PolioPlus newsletter and honoring their services during the annual District Conference."

A polio-free country is a dream for Pakistan. Reflecting on his feelings when India ended polio, to the joy of Rotarians worldwide, Aziz says, "It was good to know that a country like India could eradicate polio. It gives us hope that Pakistan can do it too, and we will soon be polio free."

"Rotary was there at the beginning of the global effort to eradicate polio. If we stop now, polio may bounce back. We've done too much: we've made too much progress to walk away before we finish."

## World Polio Update

As of November 27, there have been 112 cases of Wild Polio Virus induced Polio cases world wide. They are isolated to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

While the numbers for Afghanistan are the same as last year, the cases in Pakistan has gone from only 8 by this time last year to 91 in 2019.

Text & information from [polioeradication.org](http://polioeradication.org) 8



# SAVE THE DATE



**SAVE THE DATE – DECEMBER 14, 2019**

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS TRI-DISTRICT SEMINAR  
AND GROW ROTARY HOLIDAY MIXER  
TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT, CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP**



**SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 6 ~ 8 2020**

**PETS PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR  
PENN STATE MAIN CAMPUS, STATE COLLEGE, PA**



**SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 11, 2020**

**Rotary Leadership & Ethics Institute  
La Roche University**



**SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 29, 2020**

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON  
DETAILS TBD**



**SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 6-10, 2020**

**2020 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
HONOLULU, HAWAII**



**SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 25-28, 2020**

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE  
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**



**SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 27, 2020**

**THIRD GRADE SPELLING BEE  
SEVEN SPRINGS**



**SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST, 2020**

**DISTRICT 7305 GOLF OUTING  
DETAILS TBD**

