



Rotary District 7600



Spirit of 7600



July 2021

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District Leaders

Deborah Altizer Wall

District Governor

Kenneth Wayne Janes

District Governor Nominee

Rudy L. Garcia

District Governor Nominee

Judith W. Cocherell

iPDG

District Leadership Team

Stephen R. Beer

District Rotary Foundation
Chair

SuAnne Hardee Bryant

District Public Image Chair

William M. Mulvihill II

District Treasurer

William C. Dages Jr.

Finance Chair

Patricia A. Edwards

District Membership Chair

Michael Soden

DCO - Webmaster

Stanley Theodore Wall

District News



Welcome to our new District Governor, Debbie Wall

Debbie Wall hails from Bluefield, Virginia and currently resides in Colonial Heights VA where she is a member of the Colonial Heights Rotary Club. She is a graduate of both Virginia Tech and Bluefield College with BA degrees from both institutions and holds an MBA from Averett University.

She has been a Rotarian for 16 years and in addition to having perfect attendance for all 16 years, she has served at multiple levels and in multiple Rotary Districts including:

- Club Secretary
- Sergeant at Arms
- Club Administration Chair
- Club President (three times) Colonial Heights Rotary Club
- District Communications Officer (seven years) for District 7600
- District Secretary (three years) District 7600



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Debbie was named Rotarian of the Year 2005-2006 by the Bluefield VA Rotary Club, 2009 -2010 named Rotarian of the Year by the Rocky Mount NC Rotary Club and Area 5 Rotarian of the Year for District 7720, and Rotarian of the Year 2015-2016 by the Colonial Heights Rotary Club. Debbie was the recipient of the D7600 Outstanding Club President Award 2014-2015, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019; the Rotary Foundation District Service Award 2014-2015.












Debbie is joined in Rotary service by her husband Stan who himself is quite accomplished in Rotary. Both are Bequest Society Members, Benefactors, Major Donors, Multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Paul Harris Society Members, Polio Plus Society Members, and donors to the William E. Skelton Endowment Fund. Debbie and Stan both are RLI Graduates and serve as RLI Facilitators for Zone 33. They have attended seven Rotary International Conventions together as well as their respective district conference each year since coming into Rotary. Stan and Debbie are also the recipients of the 2011 Silver and 2012 Gold United States Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

When she is not involved in Rotary, she is employed as Senior Supply Chain Accountant for Sabra Dipping Company. Sabra produces an assortment of hummus food products here in Colonial Heights VA.

A Message from DG Debbie:





District Secretary
Maureen S. Patterson
District Youth Services Chair
Camile L. Peter
District Secretary/DCO
Paul B. Peter
Special Assistant to the
Governor
Dana Lewellyn Rieves
DCO Chair
Raghavan Sadagopan
District Technology
Committee Chair
JoAnn Meaker
Newsletter Editor
jomeaker51@gmail.com

Welcome to Rotary year 2021-2022. This is going to be a very exciting year as we have come through COVID-19 and now are returning to more opportunities to meet in person both at our club meetings and upcoming district events. I hope you all agree that it feels good to get back to in-person events - getting to see our Rotary Family in person versus the Rotary Squares of Zoom. RI President Shekhar Mehta, during the during the virtual International Assembly in February, referred to us as the Change Maker Governors and we are going to have a Change Making year. Our theme, Serve to Change Lives, is so true to what we as Rotarians enjoy doing in our communities and around the world. President Shekhar has asked us to do the following throughout the 2021-2022 Rotary year:

1. Each one Bring One  to increase our membership in Rotary to 1.3 Million over the next 12 months. As simple as that. Just one member is all you need to bring in your club. And let every Rotarian around the world do this. As Rotarians, you will become change-makers, as you will change the lives, for good, of each person that you make a Rotarian. 
2. Do More Grow More   Do more,  as in bigger and impactful service projects, and  grow more,  as in increasing our membership and expanding the participation.
3. Community Service Days  Hold at least one club or multi-club community service project. We will also have district-wide Community Service projects. Stay tuned for more details as Adeeb Hamzey, our District Community Service Chair, will be our coordinator.
4. Embrace our newest area of focus the  Environment  which rolls out this year as our 7th area of focus.
5. Continue our work on End Polio to finish the work and the promise to the children of the world that we will Eradicate Polio from the face of the earth.

I encourage you, if have not had an opportunity to hear President Shekhar speak, to check out his International Assembly speech and/or his International Convention Speech to get to know our RI President. He is a very inspirational and motivational person through his messages. Here are the links to both speeches:

[International Assembly speech](#)
[International Convention speech](#)

It is an honor to serve as your District Governor 2021- 2022. I look forward to seeing each of you during my upcoming club visits as well as at many district events throughout the next 12 months. Thank you for being a  Change Maker  Rotarian as we  Serve to Change Lives .

DG Debbie

Membership Ideas:
Submitted by Merle

Below are two articles on how these two clubs (Church Hill and Richmond) not only maintained their membership, but also increased it during this crazy year.

From the Rotary Club of Church Hill: by Lisa Ayers, President-Elect
Llayers4211@live.com

Our club is a small close-knit group. We continued to have a few outdoor social distanced meetings when we could; however, most of our meetings were via Zoom. Here is what I would say led to maintaining and increasing our membership:

- A focus on social media - posting our activities to Facebook so others could see that we were continuing to be active
- Our service projects were visible and outdoors - as an example we planted roses and



cleaned up a couple of traffic circles in our neighborhood, and people actually would thank us from their cars as they drove by
-We are a welcoming group - try to get to know people and the value and strengths that they bring and we also like to have fun in everything we do
-As potential members began to engage with us, we very intentionally included them in conversations and meetings, taking their opinions into consideration and getting them involved so they were valued members even before they were official!

From the Rotary Club of Richmond: Current Member Retention and Adding new Rotarians: by Mark A. Christian, President of Rotary Club of Richmond Macsr2459@aol.com

This past Rotary year with Covid-19 has been a challenge for all Clubs to retain current members, much less add new members. However, our Club was successful at retaining our members and even gaining a couple of new members. Here are a few notes as to how Richmond accomplished this goal:

- 1) Board and Club Officer Leadership and Emphasis: At every monthly Board meeting, the agenda includes the topic of Member Retention and New Members.
- 2) Good Club Communication with and between all Club Members: At every monthly Board meeting, the Club Secretary will report on membership attendance. We have a committee of a few member volunteers that use this report to phone or email any member that may be weak in attendance just to check on that member and see what can be done to improve the member's attendance.
- 3) Member Recognition: At every weekly meeting we have a period of "Happy, Proud, or Connect Dollars" when a member donates a dollar or more and makes an announcement about a special accomplishment or life milestone such as a birthday, anniversary, business promotion, or travels to help keep our members connected.
- 4) Member Engagement: The Rotary Club of Richmond is a large club that is involved in a lot of different types of activities (mostly some type of community service or club service). The Club Officers and Board try to make sure that every member is engaged in at least one, if not more, of these activities during the year. We then work to recognize every member for their engagement in any activity. We also have a Club Social every month just for members and any guests (such as new potential members) to meet and engage in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.
- 5) Quick Follow-up by the Club's Membership Chair with any New Potential Member: We ask and remind all our Club members to be on the lookout for any new potential member and invite that person to be a guest at any of our weekly Club meetings or monthly socials. The Membership Chair and Club Officers also try to follow up on any new member leads that may come from District or Rotary International. Our Membership Chair has an information packet that is emailed to any potential new member immediately which contains a welcome letter from the Club President, a form listing some Club expectations, a brochure created by RI from the Brand Center on Rotary Membership, a Rotary Membership Application, and an invitation to join our Club activities.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!!!



There are two opportunities to attend a baseball game and support Rotary's efforts to end Polio. On Sunday, August 1st, 5:00 pm, at the Diamond in Richmond see the Richmond Flying Squirrels. Tickets are \$10 with \$2 per ticket going toward the End Polio Now Campaign.

4:05pm in Harbor Park you can watch the Norfolk Tides vs Jacksonville. Tickets there are \$14 per ticket (again a portion going toward Polio).

For more details see the flyers: > [Flying Squirrels](#)
OR > [Norfolk Tides](#).



District 7600 Conference News

ROTARY 7600 DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Join us for a night of celebration that includes the opportunity to be a part of a live game show featuring Jim Bynum, "The Game Show Guy." It will be a memorable evening you won't want to miss!

Saturday October 16th

Dinner, Awards & Auction

6:30 -10:00 PM

Live Game Show, Prizes & Fun

Register By October 5th on DACdb



District 7600



Club News

The Historic Triangle Club:

Submitted by Jeff Marston



Small donations bring big smiles and support communities. Several club members went out to the ballgame to see the club's sponsored team. It was full of humor: what a treat!!

Submitted by Steve Milner

We've been doing virtual Portsmouth Rotary Club meetings for a year but are now

Portsmouth Rotary Club:

back in person. In fact, we're playing catch-up due to the Covid delays. We recently honored the City of Portsmouth's First Responders for 2020 during a luncheon held in their honor at Roger Brown's restaurant. The late Portsmouth Rotary Club member and First Citizen, Hunter Brantley, started this program 20 years ago.

◆We◆re very pleased to continue this important tradition

that honors our First Responders,◆ says Maureen Mizelle, Portsmouth Rotary Club president.

◆They and their counterparts are the true heroes who safeguard and protect the welfare of all of our City◆s citizens.◆

The honorees, who were selected by their respective Portsmouth departments, received plaques and cash gifts from the Rotary Club. They included Police Officer Christopher Darden, Master Sheriff◆s Deputy Timothy Branham, Firefighter Thomas Perrault, and Paramedic Tiffany Stuart.



Shown from left-to-right are Maureen Mizelle, Portsmouth Rotary Club president, Thomas Perrault, Firefighter of the Year; Tiffany Stuart, Paramedic of the Year; Christopher Darden, Police Officer of the Year; and Master Deputy of the Year, Timothy Branham, of the Sheriff◆s Office.

AND◆

Portsmouth Rotary Club gives scholarship to I.C. Norcom graduate



The Rotary Club of Portsmouth presents the Ben W. Foster, Sr., Memorial Scholarship Award annually to a student chosen for his or her scholastic achievement and for community service. This year the club gave a \$2,000 scholarship to Kayla Banae◆ Washington, who recently graduated from I.C. Norcom High School.

Kayla graduated with a 4.0 grade point average and was sixth in her class of 269 students. She plans to attend James Madison University and has a career goal of becoming a lawyer.

◆Kayla has shown leadership qualities and is a respectful, mature young lady that knows the importance of education,◆ says Heather Overkamp, STEM teacher. (STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.)◆ She is very good at working with other people, as well as accomplishing individual projects on her own time. Kayla is the type of student that other people go to for help when they are struggling because she is approachable and helpful.◆ adds Ms. Overkamp.

It was all smiles when I.C.

Norcom graduate, Kayla Banae◆ Washington recently received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Rotary Club of Portsmouth. Kayla plans to attend James Madison and hopes to become a

lawyer. Gail Pittman, the club's scholarship chairperson, presented this check. AND



SuAnne Bryant, our club's area governor, installed William (Billy) Hargroves as our new president for 2021-22.

Outgoing Portsmouth Rotary Club president, Maureen Mizelle, right, prepares to hand meeting gavel to William (Billy) Hargroves, who will lead the club in 2021-22. Area Governor SuAnne Bryant, center, installed the incoming president.

years as club at Richmond Country Club June 17th

Goochland Club celebrates 25



Recently the Rotary Club of Goochland celebrated the club's 25th Anniversary with over one hundred (100) Rotarians and guests at the Richmond Country Club. President Jay Shively shared "since our charter in 1995, the Rotary Club of Goochland has enjoyed 25 years of community service in this rural, close-knit Goochland County, VA community where pretty much everyone knows your name. It is my humble honor to have this opportunity to serve as president during this milestone year. The dedicated men and women of the Rotary Club of Goochland is comprised of 63 dedicated, service-driven individuals who are focused on improving our local community and the world. It is a pleasure and an honor to help meet the needs of our community alongside my fellow Rotarians and friends as we commemorate 25 years of service".?

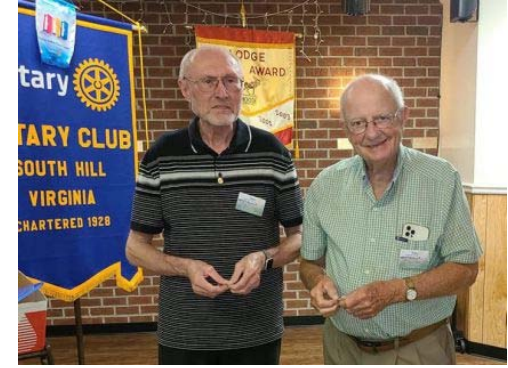
From Rich Salon District 7600 Membership Chair Area 18 Governor in Central Virginia. He is pictured with DG Judy at Goochland Club

I'm here with Rotary District 7600 Governor Judy Cocherell at the 25th anniversary celebration of my home club, the Rotary Club of Goochland, Virginia. Judy has done a phenomenal job in leading more than 60 clubs thru a challenging year due to the pandemic. Thanks to District Governor Judy for her inspiration in helping us do greater volunteer work in our communities. And, thanks to Judy, the district came out strong and continues to provide terrific service to our communities in Central and Southeast Virginia.



South Hill:

During a recent meeting Club Secretary Duane Harper presented Years of Service pins to the following people.



(Left) Frank Nanney, 60 years
(Above) Mickey Moore, 54 years



(Left) John Evans, 50 years

(Right) Jimmie Keith Crowder, 30 Years



(Right) Ken Libby. 10 years



Farmville:



Welcome to new member Andrew Payne!

Great Bridge Club:

Congratulations to the Great Bridge Rotary Club on its induction of new member, Amanda Jackson. Amanda is the Director of the Chesapeake Public Library system. Outgoing Club President Metta Alsobrook was also recognized for her service to the club. Assistant Governor SuAnne Hardee Bryant served as the installing officer for incoming President Chuck Harris and his slate of officers.



Yorktown Club:

Submitted by Ashley White



Annually the Yorktown Rotary Club offers scholarships to one student at three of the York County High Schools (Tabb, Grafton, and York).

Each recipient submits an essay based on what 'Service Above Self' means to them to be voted on by a panel of Rotarians and other community leaders. At our June 7th meeting, we honored the 3 graduating seniors who were awarded the scholarships.

L-R: Ed Jackson, YRC member; Emma Hodges (Grafton High) attending Liberty University; Cade Shaw (Tabb High) attending University of Virginia; Savannah Reed (York High) attending Virginia Tech; and Harry Fagan, YRC President.

James City County Club:

Submitted by Neva Lynde



James City County Rotarians presented the 2021 Ideal of Service Award to Ms. Darlene High, Chesapeake Bank Branch Manager. Pictured are Paul Miyamasu, Hal Campbell, Nancy Carter (Club President), Ms. High, Bill Wallis, and Dick Gillem.

Darlene High, Manager of Chesapeake Bank Patriots Colony Branch, was recently awarded 2021 Ideal of Service Award by the Rotary Club of James City County. The Ideal of Service Award recognizes an individual in the community who exemplifies vocational excellence and the

practice of high ethical standards in the workplace. This award is presented to a nominee who is outstanding in his or her working career. The award appropriately commends the often less-celebrated and less-recognized, but equally important contributions, of an individual's work in the community. Since 1990, the James City County Rotary Club has acknowledged worthy citizens for their occupational contributions to the local area.

Darlene was recognized for her dedication and devotion to her customers. She is not only

manager, but teller, banking consultant, avid listener, and problem solver for residents of Patriots Colony. Her banking experience and superior performance have earned her the respect and trust of her clients and all staff and residents. On more than one occasion she has run personal errands for someone needing assistance outside the banking business. We have never experienced such exceptional and individual service at any bank. Chesapeake Bank, under Darlene's leadership, has for many years, provided a Christmas Party for clients and all residents including a present for each attendee. She also provides donuts and cookies for special events for residents and employees at Patriots Colony. Darlene was recommended by JCC Rotarians Bill Wallis, Hal Campbell, Dick Gillem, and Paul Miyamasu, who all reside at Patriots Colony. At the JCC Rotary Club presentation of the award to Ms. High, Chesapeake Bank CEO Jeffrey Szyperski highlighted the bank's 120 year history and the launching of the nation's first boat bank serving fishermen on the water. The bank has been honored in the *American Banker* magazine's Top 200 Community Banks in the U.S. for 13 consecutive years and 8 years as one of the Best Banks to Work For.

AND:

The RC of James City County (JCC) recently presented honorariums to students at the New Horizons Regional Education Centers (NHREC) in Hampton, VA. Bryce Hinsch, JCC Rotary Scholarship Chair (right) presented the awards to Mr. Dewey Ray, principal of the NHREC, who accepted on behalf of three Williamsburg high school graduates who are pursuing vocational careers in the local area.



James City County Satellite Club:
Submitted by Neva Lynde

About 25 Rotarians and family members from the



James City County Rotary Satellite Club helped place flags at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg a few days before Memorial Day to pay tribute to over 400 veterans resting there,

AND:

Here's the JCC Club team that took down our U.S. flags at Veterans' Park, Williamsburg, after they flew for a week around Flag

Day. This flag display was our gift to the community, in appreciation of the great support they provide, enabling us to do good in the community. *Pictured left to right: Bill Wallis, Jack Clark, Jerry Fields, Nancy Carter, Ron Lynde, Sal Trifiletti, Gary Chenault, and Neva Lynde.* Photograph credit: Sue Harmon.



Exmore Club:

The Exmore Rotary Club was happy to present Olivia Peart with a scholarship for \$704. Olivia is a

2021 graduate of Northampton High School and will be attending James Madison University this fall. The Exmore Rotary Club President Tommy Taylor presents Olivia with her scholarship check.



Congratulations Olivia!

Warwick at City Center Club ♦
submitted by Jennifer Daknis

Habitat for Humanity presented a plaque to The Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center on June 14

at the dedication of the James ♦ family home in Newport News. The ♦ Rotary ♦ House was built in partnership with 5 Rotary Clubs who came together and raised \$100,000 in cash and in-kind donation to fund the building of the house. Rotarians worked alongside the new homeowner and fellow Rotarians over the past year to build the home. *Habitat Photo: President Sharon Martin and Davetta Rinehart*

The Club also continues to grow its membership and welcomed Michael C. Tillotson as a new Rotarian. Tillotson, sponsored by Sharon Martin, is an attorney in Newport News and specializes in the area of DUI/DWI defense. In addition, the following Rotarians were recognized as Paul Harris Fellows: Davetta Rinehart was recognized as a PHF+6, Baljit Gill a PHF+5 and Rusty Sprouse a PHF+6. New Member Photo: President Sharon Martin, Tillotson and Membership Chair Anne Wozniak

PHF Photo: President Sharon Martin, Foundation Chair Carol Chamberlain, Rinehart, Gill and Sprouse



AND...



Women experiencing homelessness are being given the gift of pride and renewal thanks to a generous contribution from the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center. The club donated \$1,000 to build a beauty salon at the Four Oaks Day Services Center. Located at 7401 Warwick Boulevard, Four Oaks helps people transition out of homelessness into employment, stable housing and independence. As President of the Rotary Club, Martin is allocated \$1,000 to donate to a local non-profit organization of her choice, and she is using these discretionary funds

to build the salon, as well as provide other supplies.

Quincy White, the Executive Director of the Four Oaks Day Services Center, recently presented to the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center. He shared information on the Center ♦s services, as well as upcoming job fairs and workforce development initiatives. The current club President, Sharon Martin, was inspired by the transformational work that takes place at Four Oaks. After visiting the site and learning that, while Four Oaks includes an on-site barber shop staffed by volunteers, there is not a beauty salon for female clients, she came up with a plan to build a salon.

Martin has held a Cosmetology license for 37 years, so she understands how having nicely styled hair leads to increased pride and confidence, both of which the women who are served at Four Oaks need during job interviews. According to Martin, ♦ We are called to share our resources and, when our financial resources align with our skills and passions, everyone wins. ♦

As President of the Rotary Club, Martin is given \$1,000 to donate to a local non-profit

organization of her choice, and she is using these discretionary funds to build the salon, as well as provide other supplies. Women will be able to come to Four Oaks to get their hair cut and styled, so they can leave renewed and more self-assured, ready to take the next step in life.

◆ To accomplish our goal as a city of making homelessness rare, brief and non-reoccurring, we at Four Oaks rely on community partners like the Rotary Club to assist in meeting the needs of our homeless citizens, ◆ said Quincy White. ◆ The goal of every program at Four Oaks is to build a sense of sustainability and a mindset of independence. Partners like the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center help us provide hope to those we serve and empower them to rise above their circumstances. ◆

Four Oaks is partnering with Newport News YouthBuild to complete the project. YouthBuild helps young people ages 16-24 gain work-based education that leads to industry-recognized credentials, employment placement or apprenticeships. YouthBuild participants will receive on-the-job training by renovating a room at Four Oaks and building the salon. The Heart of Giving will provide equipment and supplies needed for the salon. The goal is to open the beauty salon in early September.

Four Oaks is open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. To learn more about the Center and how you can get involved, call 757-975-5200.

Ashland Club:



Ashland Rotary Club members after their annual clean-up of their Adopt-a-spot on Main Street in Ashland!

Tip of the Month

Rotary Citation:

Each year there is an award to strive for as a club. It's called the Rotary Citation. Click [HERE](#) to see what tasks are needed to be completed in order to achieve this award for Rotary year 2021-22. Now is the time to familiarize yourselves with the goals and then work to achieve them.



Foundation News

A Message from Stephen Beer, District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair:

District's Rotary Foundation Team Becomes Stronger



We are starting the new Rotary year with a stronger Rotary Foundation Team. Most of our current team members are returning in their current roles, bringing valuable knowledge and experience. I am grateful to have such a strong team of Rotarians to be a resource for all the clubs in our Rotary district.

Development Team

Joy Kline, RC of Goochland County, will continue to lead the development side, with David Rosenthal, RC of Hampton Roads, retaining his role as Annual Fund Chair. Bill Billings, RC of Franklin, will remain as Endowment Chair. Stan Wall, RC of Colonial Heights, is still the Major Gifts Chair. The major change on the development side is the enhancement of the Paul Harris Society team. Michael Broadhurst had to step down because of significantly increased responsibilities outside of Rotary. A decision was made to make a

team approach with six geographically - oriented coordinators. The Paul Harris Society Coordinators and their coverage area are: Camile Peter, RC of Hampton Roads (Hampton Roads, north), Tracy Lego, RC of Smithfield (Hampton Roads, south), Kevin Yeargin (RC of the Virginia Peninsula (the peninsula and Williamsburg), Tracy Pendleton, RC of Sandston (Richmond, east), Campbell Pendleton, RC of Brandermill (Richmond, south), Stokes Grymes, RC of Innsbrook (Richmond, west), and Carol Woodward, RC of Prince George County (Tri-Cities and Southside).

Grants Team

Shel Douglas, RC of Prince George County, continues as our Grants Chair. Shel has lots of experience with district and global grants. Raghavan Sadagopan, RC of Innsbrook, took over as District Grants Chair and led the district grant process this spring. He is supported by team members, Sigur Whitaker, RC of Norfolk, Lee Harris, RC of BonAir, and Al Mink, RC of Fluvanna County. The global grants team still has Shel Douglas as chair, and Adeeb Hamzey, RC of Goochland County and Ray Spencer, RC of Virginia Peninsula, as coordinators. Al Mink is taking on a new position that helps clubs to keep up to date with the global grant reports. Prompt grant reporting is essential for the integrity of The Rotary Foundation's grant model. Also, Elizabeth McCoury, RC of Virginia Peninsula, is starting a new role as Vocational Training Teams Chair. VTT's are important in making many global grants sustainable.

Polio Plus

Our Polio Programs Chair continues to be Colleen Bonadonna, RC of New Kent. Our polio baseball game events at Norfolk and Richmond will still be arranged by Stan Wall. He will be supported for the Norfolk game by Pat Edwards, RC of Town Center at Virginia Beach. Pam Tubbs, RC of Norfolk, and Stan Wall will also take on new roles coordinating activities with Colleen.

Events and Communications

Elizabeth McCoury will also continue to serve as our Events Chair. This role entails arranging our annual banquet and training opportunities. Carol Woodward is also continuing her role as Communications Chair. Carol is editor for the Foundation input into the district's monthly newsletter and participation in social media. Jan Rowley, RC of Prince George County, will be supporting Carol by actively posting on social media.

Stewardship

The integrity and attractiveness of The Rotary Foundation as a charitable organization is enhanced greatly by how well we are stewards of Foundation funds. Don Vaught, RC of Brandermill, continues to make sure we are responsible your Foundation gifts made available for the district's use.

Coasting to Paul Harris Society Stardom

OK, you have thought about signing up for the Paul Harris Society (PHS), but every time you pull out the checkbook to write that \$1000 check, something comes up: you're about to go on vacation and might want that grand for visiting watering holes or buying souvenir birdhouses; or you want to buy the Jackery 1000 Inverter because a named tropical storm is in the news; or your Jag really could use a new set of tires.

It isn't that you don't know the value of being a PHS member in that your contribution counts towards not only your own level

of giving recognition, but that each year that \$1000 donation elevates our district's Annual Fund giving, part of which will come back three

years later to help fund district and global grants. PHS members are building their way to Major Donor status, not for the swag, but for the warmth of goodness, similar to chocolate chip cookies right out of the oven. The committed giving of PHS members funds good works locally and globally. That's way better than chocolate chip cookies. So, now that we've said all that. Is this the year in which you do it? Become a Paul Harris Society member, that is. Consider that averaged out over the 12-month Rotary year, the actual monthly average of that \$1000 is only \$83.3333333, but heck, why not round that figure up to \$85 a month. Now, what if you set up a monthly charge to your credit card of \$85 on Rotary Direct designated for the Annual Fund after you have signed up with your local PHS coordinator, listed below? The \$85 would be collected painlessly and you don't have to find an envelope nor a stamp. Start in July and you would make it to PHS without a set of tires, an inverter, or birdhouse coming between you and your goal.



If you would like to talk with someone about the Paul Harris Society check out Stephen's message in this issue of the Spirit. You will see the names of the Paul Harris Society Coordinators. The clubs which they will support will be announced officially shortly, but contact any one of the listed PHS Coordinators to get more information. You can be a Paul Harris Society Member and still enjoy chocolate chip cookies.



Summer Seminars Now Called *Be A Vibrant Club Seminars*

Over the past several years Rotary District 7600 has held summer training programs to provide club leaders information they need to take their club to the next higher level. The training focuses on Membership, Rotary Foundation, and Public Image programs clubs can implement to make their clubs stronger.

In the past attendees were required to participate in one of the three areas. This year we want to give participants the opportunity to experience more than one

area, if they choose. A total of fifteen breakouts are planned. This will make the day more compelling for club presidents, presidents-elect and other Rotarians who want to increase their general knowledge about Rotary. Many of the programs are tailored to meet the needs of club foundation chairs, grant organizers, membership chairs and committee members, and public image and communication chairs.

Attendees will be asked to register in advance for three different breakouts. This will give planners the opportunity to gauge interest and allot breakouts to appropriately sized rooms. The *Be a Vibrant Club Seminars* will take place on Saturday, August 7 at Colonial Heritage Country Club near Williamsburg. Registration will open on Dacdb in early July.

Twenty-one District Grants Have Been Approved

We gave a sneak peak of the District 7600 grant applications in the June issue of *The Spirit of 7600*. The District Grants Committee has done its work and approved 21 of those applications.

Eight of the applications are multi-club projects. The 21 approved grants will involve a total of 34 clubs. When the district's spending plan is approved by The Rotary Foundation (TRF), the total project value of the grants will be \$176,000 which includes district grant funding, club funding, and funding by partnering organizations. That is an enormous positive impact on clubs' communities from South Boston to Chesapeake and from Mechanicsville to South Hill.

The breakdown of the applicable areas of focus is telling. Seven of the grants are in the Economic and Community Development Area of Focus, two are in Maternal and Child Health, and eleven are in Basic Education and Literacy. There is one grant in the new Supporting the Environment Area of Focus and has to do with *goatscaping*. More on that in the next issue.

Congratulations to the 34 clubs which will be engaged in district grants this Rotary



year. Remember to wait until you receive your funds to begin your work. And remember to take lots of pictures of Rotarians at Work to submit to the grants module.

RCOR and Rotaract Club of VCU Awarded District Grant for Carver Elementary School
Submitted by Mark Christian and Mike Little

We are excited to announce that the Rotary Club of Richmond in partnering with VCU Rotaract received a Rotary 7600 District Grant for Richmond Public Schools -Carver Elementary School totaling \$7500. The grant will be used to buy science water testing kits and library books for over 200 students.



Durwood Usry, Past President 1996, was amazing in developing the idea and concept with Carver Elementary School. He met with Principal Tiawana Giles of George W. Carver early this spring to identify the school's needs. Given the Covid 19 epidemic and with students and teachers studying remotely from home this was a challenge in itself. The school serves approximately 400 students from Gilpin Court, the largest housing project in the city of Richmond, Jackson Ward. The population is over 90% African American and 95% high poverty with 100% of the students on free lunch.

According to Principal Giles, the grant will support student knowledge in the area of environmental science through hands on experiments and student trips to the James River. Club members of RCOR and Rotaract VCU are encouraged to participate in student activities this fall as we all can learn to become good stewards of the environment in which we live.

This District Grant was truly a group effort. We thank everyone involved.

Essential Rotary-funded travel to resume on July 1

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In some parts of the world, COVID-19 infections are decreasing, vaccination rates are on the rise, and local health authorities are relaxing travel and meeting restrictions. Based on these developments, the Rotary International Board of Directors, with input from the COVID-19 Task Force, will allow Rotary-funded business travel to resume, as long as it is essential to Rotary's business operations, effective 1 July 2021.

Until 31 December 2021, Rotary will only fund travel that is essential to Rotary's business operations. Travel is essential if:

- a) it is mission-critical for Rotary business;
- b) it cannot be conducted without in-person interaction or without visit(s) to a specific location(s);
- c) the purpose and intended outcomes of the travel are dependent upon the presence of the funded traveler(s) at the in-person meeting/location.

The Board continues to recommend that Rotary conduct its business virtually or in a hybrid form. However, Rotary meetings, service projects, and training events can occur as long as health concerns have been considered and everyone fully complies with local health and safety rules.

If you have questions about whether your trip qualifies as essential travel, contact your staff liaison.

Polio Update:

As of June 22, 2021 there are no new cases of wild Polio in the world. To date there is only one case in Afghanistan and one case in Pakistan.