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October 2021

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District Leaders

Deborah Altizer Wall District Governor

Kenneth Wayne Janes DG-Elect

Rudy L. Garcia
District Governor Nominee

Judith W. Cocherell iPDG

District Leadership Team

Appaiah Mudappa Ballachanda

Friendship Exchange Chair

Stephen R. BeerDistrict Rotary Foundation
Chair

Colleen BonadonnaDistrict Conference Co-Chair

SuAnne Hardee BryantDistrict Public Image Chair

Judith W. Cocherell

William C. Dages Jr. Finance Chair

District News



Only a few more days until the District Conference -October 15 - 17 at the Marriott Downtown Richmond. Fellowship, food, learning and fun!

Be sure to put on your poodle skirts, and blue suede shoes and get ready to rock around the clock at the Friday Night Sock Hop!

Alumni News:

Submitted by Adeeb Hamzey District Conference is going to be the talk of the town in Richmond, Virginia, October 15-17, 2021, at the Downtown Marriott.

Conference panels are set,

dynamic speakers are confirmed, and the alumni Association is taking center stage on Saturday with a panel discussion facilitated by Dr. Michael Little in morning, decorating our six Little Libraries in the afternoon, and reception/cash bar/Class of 2021 Induction ceremony between 4:00 pm and 5:15 pm. There will also be a booth at the House of Friendship, thanks to Jan Rowley, our forever energetic volunteer.

And, oh, yes, you will have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the first ever Alumni Association Cookbook. It is a collection of select recipes from around the world, brought in by volunteers who spent time in different countries on various Rotary projects. It will be on display at the House of Friendship with ordering information at hand, at an affordable price and for a worthy cause, supporting charities in our district, the rotary way.

Club News

Williamsburg Club: Submitted by Jenn Gass

Patricia A. Edwards
District Membership Chair

Adeeb Alex Hamzey Community Service Chair

Michael E. Jallo Lieutenant Governor

Joy L. Kline District Awards Chair

JoAnn Meaker Newsletter Editor jomeaker51@gmail.com

William M. Mulvihill II District Treasurer

Maureen S. Patterson District Youth Services Chair

Camile L. Peter District Secretary/DCO

Paul B. Peter Special Assistant to the Governor

Dana Lewellyn RievesDCO Chair

Davetta Flinn Rinehart Youth Protection Officer

Raghavan Sadagopan District Technology Committee Chair

Tom Wilkinson Lieutenant Governor



4, the Rotary Club of Williamsburg welcomed 15 musicians from Armenia who are spending two weeks in the United States traveling the East Coast from New York to Florida with the International Cultural Exchange Program, "Golden Gates".

The Golden Gates Program is sponsored by the Reunite Cultures Fund

which funds programs that let young artists and musicians worldwide share their talents. The program introduces the culture of other countries to the American people and allows participants to learn about the United States of America through visits to cities like Williamsburg.

Since 2003, more than 500 young people have been selected to 40 youth groups that traveled internationally and shared their talent and culture with more than 1,000,000 people.

For the past 5 years, organized groups visited more than 300 public schools, colleges and universities and provided educational multicultural programs to communities throughout the USA.

Fluvanna Club:

Submitted by DGND Rudy Garcia

DGE Kenny Janes presented the Rotary Club of Fluvanna County their District Grant check for our parking lot and kiosk building project in partnership with the Parks and Rec Department of Fluvanna County. Accepting the check were Club President Delores (DJ) Hubert-Christmas and Membership Chair Cliff Altschull



Rotary Satellite Club of James City County

Submitted by Neva Lynde



our District grant to paint educational and fun stencils on the blacktop of James River Elementary School.The area will

We are making great progress on

include the U.S. and state of Virginia maps, an alphabet arc, multiplication table, dolphin (school mascot), hopscotch, exercise activity stations, a peace path and more! What a great way to learn, exercise outdoors, and have FUN and we ve had lots of great compliments from teachers, kids, and parents. This is all possible thanks to a Rotary District 7600 grant, the hard work

of our Rotarians along with the James River Elementary PTA, and our commitment to the students, teachers and staff at JRES.



Hanover County with the Ashland VA Club:



can be made in the community. Recently club members packed over 60 appreciation bags for 5th grade teachers in the schools of Hanover County. The bags were filled with all the teachers favorite items: expo markers, gel pens, lotion, candy and so much more. The bags we used our reusable bags from Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Petersburg Club:

It was a great day for the club \$ s 14th Annual "Service Above Self" Golf Tournament. Both Petersburg Clubs hosted this tournament and they had a record 31 teams with 124 people participating and more volunteers from our Clubs. Thanks to Poplar Springs Hospital for sponsoring it and a big shout out to Columbia Gas and Meridian Waste for their huge support!



Emporia Club:



Marc Fusaro representing the Emporia Rotary Club in presenting Corky's Cupboard with a \$400 check!

Come join us at the Powhatan Festival of the Grape on Saturday, Oct. 2nd! Rotary is once again operating the beer truck at this great Powhatan Festival. Sign-up to volunteer for one of the 3 shifts at the breakfast meeting.

South Hill Rotary Club:

The club made a donation to Sophie Crowder this week to help





with her Operation: Backpack-To-The-Future project which will help the Afghanistan refugees that are being sent to Virginia. She is pictured with Club President Lynn Ellis. Lisa Clary Photo

The South Hill Rotary Club made a donation to Sophie Crowder tonight for her endeavors for the Operation: Backpack-To-The-Future initiative she put in place this week. She is from South Hill and a student at Kenston Forest and is a young lady who has set her goals high in life and she has a heart of gold and wants to help others do the same.

Last week as the Afghanistan refugees left their country not knowing where they

would end up when the planes landed, Sophie decided she wanted to help and Facebooked her ideas and requests for what she wanted to do as they resettled. With the support of her mother and father, Jimmie and Wella Crowder, she proceeded and her mom posted about her efforts on Facebook and Sophie had an Instagram post that her project was in motion.

Wella stated, If you have been following the news about Afghanistan, you know how they are in dire need of help. Sophie is working with the Lutheran Social Services Resettlement Agency in Fairfax, Virginia to help Afghan refugee kids get to school! She is putting school kits together to be donated to the refugees trying to rebuild their lives here in our state. She also included a direction to check out Sophie Instagram link on her motivation for this effort.

She started with a modest goal of 45 that was quickly met so she increased it to deliver at least 100 backpacks this weekend. She has made this happen by using her funds and the donations of others who have dropped off money and backpacks. She has had donations from all over the world and had friends stop by to help her pack the backpacks with the school supplies for delivery. Sophie has exceeded her goal and is on her way to having 150 backpacks ready to go. "Your kindnesses were felt and appreciated, and will be used to help rebuild many lives affected by the turmoil in Afghanistan. •

The South Hill Rotary Club also stepped up to help her as well as those who have been displaced by circumstances beyond their control. It is a part of a what the mission and goal of Rotary is all about and Sophie Crowder and her longing to help others meets those standards with following Rotary s Motto Service Above Self. And she will change the world for these children, with Operation: Backpack-To-The-Future, one backpack at a time.

Sophie stated in her post, •I am grateful that I live in a country where equality is a right and not a privilege, where I have a voice, and I can freely make choices to be educated & pursue my dreams.

But these past few days have been weighing down on me heavily as I felt so helpless watching the terror unravel in Afghanistan where girls and women cannot even dream of exerting the same rights and privileges. I felt moved to do something, but at the same time, I knew there was not much I could do from thousands of miles away. But the universe always finds a way when we seek it.

Last week, I received some good news (that I cannot fully share publicly yet). It turned out that I was chosen to be part of a project which would come with some award money that I can use towards \diamond the future. \diamond

So while I was reading up on the plight of women and children being denied education under the Taliban rule, I also knew that there were efforts to rescue and resettle some refugees here in the US, many of them straight right into my home state.

I could not think of a better way to use the award money than by helping the refugees rebuild their lives here, and in a way, honor the courageous men & women who fought to free these people from the clutches of oppression •20 years ago and counting. Helping pave the way for Afghan refugee kids to get educated as many (if not most) would not have had the chance to do so in their home country, will help change their future and ours.

With that, I am putting my money where my heart is: Today I am launching an initiative mobilizing support from my community both online and offline to help put some school kits together to get these kids on the right track towards a better future. Working closely with a resettlement agency tasked to help new Afghan families here in my state, I will be collecting backpacks and filling it with school supplies so the kids can go to school.

Together, we can create ripples of compassion during these trying times. Let s help build a better future one backpack at a time!

Richmond Club

The Rotary club of Richmond assisted with a wheelchair ramp build that addresses the housing needs of the Richmond region by building and installing wheelchair ramps for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners at no charge. Wheelchair ramps provide elderly and disabled homeowners improved independence and quality of life.



Cape Henry Club:



Oyster Crush!! Sunday, October 10th from 1 - 6pm. Listen to Tidewater Drive Band and Shy the DJ. Feast on oysters, clams, fried chicken, barbecue, beer and all the fixings. Wine or Orange Crushes \$5. Tickets are \$75. PDG Judy says, "Let me know if you need some before they run out! Be there or be square! Lol!"

Western Henrico County: Submitted by Bob Johnson

Since 1991, the Becky Briggs

Memorial Golf Tournament, held each Columbus Day in October, is proudly sponsored by the Western Henrico Rotary. The Becky Briggs Memorial Scholarship Fund, which receives proceeds from the tournament, was started in 1991 through the efforts of the Western Henrico Rotary & Cordell Briggs in loving memory of his daughter, Rebecca. Becky was a 17-year-old rising senior at Marymont when her life was tragically cut short in a 1990 auto accident. Western Henrico Rotary and

Western Henrico Rotary Club



Cordell, a longtime member of Rotary, joined hands with The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia to form the scholarship fund in Becky s memory.



The Foundation grants scholarships for college and continued learning to high school students of the Richmond area, helping to make the educational opportunities for select area high school seniors a reality.

For 2021, the Recipients are as follows:

Taylor Henss- Hermitage High School; Attending James Madison University in the Fall.

Aditya Kotha- J.R. Tucker High School; Attending VCU in the Fall.

Erin McCaffrey- Douglas Freeman High School; Attending Virginia Tech in the Fall. **Surya Shanmugaselvam**- J.R. Tucker High School; Attending UVA in the Fall.

5. *Emily Toler*- Douglas Freeman High School; Attending UVA in the Fall.

The Western Henrico Rotary Club proudly recognizes and congratulates each of this year so recipients based on their academic and extra-curricular activities and achievements. We look forward to tracking their success and growth as they embrace their collegiate experiences.

Warwick at City Center Club:

Check out the Pints for Polio flyer for this club's upcoming event <u>HERE</u>.

Tip of the Month

Using images to create club's visual stories:

with information taken from Zone 34 Public Image Webinar, September 27, 2021 featuring Alyce Henson (www.alycehenson.com) - a freelance photographer whose photographs have been used by Rotary International.

For complete recording of webinar go to www.rotaryshares.org/

Images are used to visually describe one's mission.

Tips for good images:

Shows diversity; club members in action; interacting with one another; smiling (look for joy and connection)

Use composition techniques - clean images; shoot from different angles; get close (use telephoto if needed); take both vertically and horizontally

Lighting - use a well lit space, shoot outdoor scenes after sunrise and before sunset - avoid mid day

You don't need expensive equipment - a cell phone works very well; explore tips online for use of cell phone

Have fun; get people involved with helping you take a good image; they can chat with person while you shoot

Remember:

When photographing people get permission (this is especially important when taking images of children) before posting to social media.

A good source of images is at the RI website - Brand Center.

Another way to create your own is by going to www.poaphotos.com. The People of Action (POA) Editor is a web application to edit and modify photos, particularly for the Rotary International #PeopleOfAction Campaign. The app is designed to work through your internet browser on your desktop or mobile device.

Rotary Foundation



Foundation News



A message from District Foundation Chair, Stephen Beer

What s Happening in October November with Our Foundation?

Right now, hopefully, you are preparing to attend the District Conference at the Richmond Marriott Hotel. This is a great time to have fun and fellowship with other Rotarians and families. It is also an opportunity to find out more about Rotary and what it does to make the world a better place. We will be celebrating World Polio Day at the conference. Colleen Bonadonna is planning several activities to celebrate Rotary s achievement in becoming \$\phi\$this close \$\phi\$ to eradicating polio. The last case of the wild polio virus was recorded on January 27 of this year in Pakistan. That s eight months without a case. The World Health Organization will declare the world polio-free after we have gone three years without a new case. Let s keep our fingers crossed!

During November of every year Rotary celebrates **Foundation Month**. Clubs create greater awareness of The Rotary Foundation and how it supports Rotary clubs efforts to serve their communities. This will be a time to find out more about District Grants, Global Grants, Peace Scholars, Global Grant Scholars, and other programs supported by your Foundation. What has your Rotary club done lately to participate in Rotary Foundation programs and grants? Club leaders will be kicking off their Rotary Foundation Annual Fund campaign during November. How much will you give to The Rotary Foundation this year? It state the best charitable dollars you will ever spend.

Jamshid Bakhtiari: Global Scholar, Alumni Association Member, & Economic Justice Advocate

An Interview by Carol Dois Woodward

Jamshid Jam was District 7600 s first Global Grant Scholar under the new funding and grants program of The Rotary Foundation rolled out in 2013 after an intensive pilot project called Future Vision according to Past District Governor and Past District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair (DRFC), Jim Probs Probsdorfer, who was the DRFC when Jam was awarded his Global Scholar Fellow in 2014. Jam, who is from Chesapeake, Virginia, had a strong advocate for his candidacy in Past District Governor,

Jayne Sullivan, who knew of Jam through one of her colleagues at Virginia Wesleyan who was one of Jam s extended family members.

The Global Grant Scholar Program is designed to help prepare students to careers in one of Rotary s Areas of Focus and to foster international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. Candidates are seeking a master s degree in their desired field of study. The District 7600 process is an exacting process. A successful candidate would need to demonstrate, not only excellent academic credentials and language acuity, but also some kind of academic and experiential background in a field related to our Areas of

Focus (Causes). He or she must be admitted to the foreign university at which the candidate would like to study and the local District 7600 sponsoring club must provide financial support for the successful student and assist in locating a Rotary Club(s) in the area of the university which will steward the candidate in-country. The student will connect with Rotary Clubs and Rotary families for additional support and guidance during the candidate s graduate studies. Having graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a double major in International Studies and Political Science, Jam used his Global Grant Scholar award to earn his Master s Degree in International Law and Human Rights at the United Nations for Peace in Costa Rica, graduating in 2015.

We know that Rotary scholars are sought out internationally for their acumen and knowledge of world issues and cultures. We are fortunate that Jam is still in our greater Virginia community sharing his education and commitment. After being affiliated with the Chesapeake Action Network in Maryland, he accepted a position in 2019 with the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), headquartered in Richmond, Virginia.

The mission statement below of the VPLC is taken from the organization s website at https://www.vplc.org:

The Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to breaking down systemic barriers that keep low-income Virginians in the cycle of poverty through advocacy, education, and litigation.

Since 1978, we ve advocated for legislation that benefits low-income Virginians and provided training to legal aid organizations throughout the Commonwealth in the following areas: housing, consumer rights, domestic and sexual violence, elder rights, family and child welfare, health insurance, and public benefits. Our staff also often collaborates with other groups across the Commonwealth to achieve our common goals. We are the only statewide organization providing training to local legal aid program staff, private attorneys, and lowincome clients relating exclusively to the legal rights of low-income Virginians. Jam s role is as the Consumer Advocacy and Utility Fairness Campaign Coordinator for the VPLC. His role is statewide and prior to COVID limitations he was frequently on the road. Now much of his and his colleagues work and outreach is assisted by Zoom training and communications predatory lending abuses and fairness in utilities policies are of particular concern to Jam s VPLC team. VPLC operates hotlines to assist consumers with those issues. Check out the VPLC website to become acquainted with the range of the organization so missions. As a side note, donations to VPLC are easy to make on the website. He has remained connected to Rotary District 7600 and was inducted into the Rotary District 7600 Alumni Association in 2019. Jam is on the Alumni Association panel at the District Conference on Saturday morning, October 16, along with Heather Barrar (Group Study Exchange) and Abdulrahman Abunnia (Rotarctor/Interactor).

In the next five years Jam would like to continue his social justice work at higher levels to have more impact and help larger segments of society. When his duties allow, his hobbies include surfing, yoga, martial arts, and playing jazz guitar. Please take the time to say hello to Jam at the District Conference.

Advantages Donating Appreciated Financial Assets by Stephen Beer

This is the second in a series on financial strategies for your charitable giving. Most of us have heard requests from charities that ask us to donate appreciated stock for its tax advantages. This seems like a complicated action, but most of us have financial advisors who are very familiar with the process and can take care of the details for you. This article will show you how you may benefit by donating to a charity appreciated shares of a stock, a mutual fund, or other financial asset.

One of the least mentioned benefit of donating appreciated securities to a charity is the exercise can help to re-balance your



portfolio. Let s say your financial advisor purchased for you 100 shares of Apple stock back in 2017 for \$28 per share (split adjusted). Recently, the shares have been selling for \$146. You are now sitting on an unrealized capital gain of \$11,800 on your initial investment of \$2800. To balance your portfolio, your advisor may suggest you sell some of your Apple shares and purchase other securities. Why not donate a few of those shares to charity? Donors receive additional income tax benefits when they contribute securities (for example, common stocks and mutual funds) to charity instead of contributing cash.

Here is an example:

Assumptions

Joe wants to give \$1000 to his favorite charity, The Rotary Foundation. This year Joe already knows he will be able to itemize his deductions. Joe s marginal income tax bracket (combined 24% federal and 5.8% Virginia) is 29.8%.

Joe Donates Cash

If Joe writes a check or donates on the My.Rotary website, his \$1000 contribution yields a tax savings of \$298.

Joe Donates Common Stock

Let say Joe donates \$1000 of common stock or some fund shares. He receives the same tax savings as if he donated in cash, as above. In addition, Joe is avoiding paying capital gains taxes. Let s make the following assumptions for this illustration: Joe s purchase cost for the shares was \$200 and his capital gain is \$800 (\$1000 - \$200 = \$800). Joe s federal capital gains tax rate is 15%. So, Joe is also avoiding federal tax of \$120 (15% X \$800 = \$120). There will be state income tax savings, too.

Of course, this strategy works even better, if you are thinking of making a much more significant contribution to your favorite charity. Donating securities is limited to up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. The securities have to come from a taxable investment account, not an IRA or similar retirement account.

Just one final point, I am not a licensed financial, tax, or legal expert. Please talk directly to your financial advisor and tax planner if you want to consider this form of charitable giving.

The Rose Report: Annual Fund Giving Through August Close of Books By David Rosenthal, District Annual Fund Giving Chair

Editors Note: This is a modification of an email that David sent to Club Presidents and Club Rotary Foundation Chairs on September 22. It includes helpful information for all Rotarians.

Good morning Rotarians! It is the first day of autumn, although the temperature and humidity certainly don't invoke thoughts of fall foliage. I hope you had an enjoyable summer and everyone is healthy.

Many Clubs have been busy with weekly meetings and community events and I hope I will see you all in Richmond next month for the District Conference (October 15-17).

Club members have also been making contributions to the Annual Fund. 40 of 61 Clubs in the District have made contributions to the Annual Fund, and

The Annual Fund

is the primary source of funds that support The Rotary Foundation's programs and areas of focus.

Give like no one is looking!



everyone should be planning for Rotary Foundation month in November. The members of the District Foundation Committee are available to speak, so please reach out.

Rotarians, you are encouraged to set up a My Rotary account at <u>rotary.org</u>. After you have a MyRotary account you will be able to check your own Foundation giving status. This will help you plan for the next Paul Harris Fellow recognition level or know how many PHF Points you have if you want to recognize a family member as a Paul Harris Fellow. Don't know what I'm talking about? Come to the District Conference to learn about PHF points!

To view your contribution status:

- 1. Log into Rotary.org
- 2. Hover over The Rotary Foundation in the header and select Foundation Reports
- 3. Select View Report under Donor History Report

Economic and Community Development District Grants

October is Economic and Community
Development Month in the world of Rotary.
One could argue that this cause (Area of Focus) underpins many, if not all, of the other six causes. Such projects infuse vibrancy into an area or community, assist in serving the population, both residents and often tourists, and generally increase the quality of life in a community.
This Rotary year District 7600 has approved six District Grants which are Economic and Community Development projects. The total budget for these



projects is almost \$50,000 and involves a total of 9 clubs and one club s Interact

Two of the projects feature & Gateway & improvements to towns or cities facing financial challenges. In partnership with their localities, improvements will be made enhancing existing key entryways to those communities, enticing citizens and tourists to visit, shop, and dine.

One project in Petersburg involves the two Petersburg Rotary Clubs, Petersburg Breakfast and Petersburg, as well as the Rotary Club of Colonial Heights. This project also includes the Colonial Heights Rotary Club s Interact Club. The project will include high quality decorative fencing behind which the City of Petersburg will be scarifying an eyesore of an abandoned parking lot and turning it into a green space.

Manahaster High Sal

The Rotary Club of South Boston will be supplying fresh signage to one of the gateways to Halifax and South Boston replacing signage which has aged out. A few years ago South Boston merged back into Halifax County and is committed to service projects which will support enhanced resources and facilities which will add to the quality of life.

The Rotary Clubs of Brandermill and Bon Air will be partnering with the Chesterfield Little League, a nonprofit, to purchase and install two batting cages. The addition of the batting cages will enhance the facilities which already exist, but greatly challenged by the number of users. This additional practice facility will ease access to recreation for all as they will be open to the general public.

Another district grant project relating to recreation is the Rotary Club of Fluvanna s project to provide an information kiosk and parking improvement at the county so Disc Golf Park. Currently, there is no central information area to provide for the posting of schedules, team contact points, and other general county information. Parking is in a field which is basically inaccessible to anything other than pickup trucks and four-wheel drives. The parking lot improvement portion of the project will provide leveled parking for approximately ten vehicles.

The Rotary Club of Short Pump&s project will provide for the purchase, delivery, and set up of a commercial refrigerator at the Gayton Food Pantry. This facility provides weekly drive-by pick up of prepackaged and fresh foods to those experiencing food insecurity. Same day purchasing of perishables is required as there has been no refrigerator. The refrigerator will allow better organized purchasing of perishables so that cost savings can be increased, and the variety of produce and perishables can be widened.

Finally, let s not forget how important pets are to a community. The Rotary Club of Blackstone s district grant project is to build a fenced dog park and skilled training obstacles for citizens and tourists to use to give their pets some space to run, train, and, well, do the things dogs need to do. Currently, there is no such dog park, so dogs cannot safely be let off lead to socialize and train.

A common theme of all of the projects is that their impact will be felt by many in the area, including travelers. All have sustainable components with continuing support from local governments or nonprofits. The projects raise the profile of Rotary among the clubs partners and have significant impacts on the aesthetics of the communities, as well as the health and well being of the citizens.

Another District Grant:

A joint grant by Western Henrico, West Richmond and Henrico North Rotary Clubs and Rotaract RVA was used for the project. Our goal was to finish an outdoor open-sided pavilion/classroom that was started in response to the pandemic with the restrictions of inside activities. A site was utilized in the SPARC paved parking area.

The School of Performing Arts in Richmond Community (SPARC) is a non-profit agency founded in 1981



teaching performing arts for youth ages 4-18. SPARC programs annually provides transformative performing arts education for over 3000 plus diverse youth with many from underserved populations to

include those with disabilities.

The project involved the installation of a cushioned, weather, durable surface under the roof of the pavilion. The cushioning provided by the turf lessens injury; and the soft texture gives emotional comfort for performing, especially important for the younger children and those with intellectual or physical disabilities.

The clubs also purchased and set up two movable bleacher sets for use by both students and spectators viewing the outdoor performances. Additionally, the grant provided for a gutter system to re-direct the rain at the outdoor facility.

Students at SPARC discover their creativity as well as build confidence and life skills. The majority of the SPARC programs are held at the main campus with off site in-school programs (600 plus students) at selected RVA schools. It was at the main SPARC campus in Scott standards schools. Addition, Richmond that the project was completed.

We are proud of our continued support of local nonprofit groups that make the extra effort to help educate our youth toward their success in the future.