

THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

February 7, 2024



February 7 Program – Mark Cook, Ambassador, Rotary District 7610, Shelter Box USA

After a career as a professional trumpeter, followed by 15 years in the ministry, and then 22 years owning a wealth management firm, Mark Cooke has started his path of retirement by focusing on retiring to something, and not just from something. Those passions center around family, his church (Haymarket United Methodist), his Rotary Club (Gainesville-Haymarket) and ShelterBox USA.

He is currently an Ambassador for ShelterBox USA helping spread the word and raising support. ShelterBox is a global movement of staff, volunteers and supporters working together to build a world where no family goes without shelter.

A resident of Gainesville, VA, Mark and his wife, Cynthia, enjoy time with their extended family. He is an Army veteran having played trumpet with the First US Army Band and the 202nd Kentucky National Guard Band. Mark has served on several non-profit boards in support of his local community and has been active in the Gainesville-Haymarket Rotary Club since 2008.

Education and Designations

- Bachelor of Music, Trumpet Performance, University of Louisville
- Master of Church Music, Music and Ministry, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



Club Calendar February Is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

- ❖ February 7 - Mark Cook, Shelter Box
- ❖ February 14 – Debra Schlieff
- ❖ February 21 - PDG Leigh Hudson, D7710 - Roots of Rotary
- ❖ February 23- Rotary is 118 years old.
- ❖ February 24 – Peace Conference
- ❖ February 28 – Club Social
- ❖ March 3, 1 pm – Visit to Public Safety Center with Sheriff Decatur.
- ❖ March 6 - TBD
- ❖ March 13 - TBD
- ❖ March 20 - Dr. Thomas Taylor - STAFFORD COUNTY School Superintendent
- ❖ March 30 – RLI in Warrenton.
- ❖ April 27 - District Training Assembly - April 2024
- ❖ April 27 – Casino Night
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 -Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ October 4-5, 2024 – District Conference

January 24 Meeting

President Jamie presided. Holly gave the thought of the day: “May the light of love be shining deep within your spirit, May the torch of mercy clear the path and show the way, May the horn of plenty sound so everyone can hear it, May the light of love be with you every day.”

Announcements:

- ❖ Sheriff Decatur has arranged a tour of the Public Safety Center on March 3 at 1 pm. It will be a 2 to 3 hour tour.
- ❖ RLI classes will be held in Warrenton on March 30. The club will pay the registration fee for club members who attend.
- ❖ April 27 is the District Training Session. It is extremely important for incoming officers and committee chairs to attend. This is also the date of our Casino Night.

Program: Yvette Blake, Civil War Living Historian



Our guest speaker was Yvette Blake. After retirement Ms. Blake expanded her roles as a Living Historian from a Soldier with the 23rd United States Colored Troops, to roles of involving women that supported the war effort.

Yvette gave a presentation as Lucy Ann Walker, a woman who, with her husband Dabney escaped slavery by crossing the Rappahannock joined Union troops at General Joseph Hooker's headquarters camp. A few weeks after they arrived, Lucy Ann returned to Confederate territory to serve as a laundress and personal servant to a Southern woman who lived nearby. Shortly afterward, Dabney, who served as a cook, began reporting Confederate movements to Hooker's staff. His information was reliably accurate and timely: he knew which

units were moving, where they were going, how long they'd been marching, and how many troops they had. Dabney's information usually reached Hooker just hours after it was discussed by rebel commanders.

When asked where he got his information, Dabney led Union army officers to a hilltop, where they had a clear view of Fredericksburg and much of the surrounding area. He pointed to a house on the outer edge of the town, near the river bank. In the yard was a clothesline where laundry was hung out to dry.

Dabney explained that he and Lucy Ann had worked out their own signaling system using the laundry that she hung out to dry for her mistress. When she saw troops moving through the area or overheard Confederate soldiers talking about future plans, she rushed to the clothesline and hung items in particular patterns to send her husband a coded message.

Ms. Blake demonstrated the arduous task of doing laundry in a Civil War camp with the tools of the time. She commented that soldiers were paid between \$13 and \$19 per month, but laundresses were paid \$40 a month. Although the work was extremely hard, many of the women who had recently escaped from slavery used this work to start successful businesses that supported their families before and after the war.

After this wonderful, informative program, PE Shekela commented that Ms. Blake has decorated her home with Civil War artifacts. Ms. Blake explained that she has arranged her basement in chronological order by the characters she portrays in living history presentations.

Thank you for a splendid, informative program, Yvette Blake.

Time to Think about Mulching Your Garden – A Message from Kristy

“If you are anything like me, you dread the annual trip to Lowe's to load bags upon bags of mulch into a shopping cart with a wonky wheel, cram it into the trunk of the car, only to spend all afternoon unloading it and undoubtedly spilling a bag or two, resulting in a car that inevitably smells like mulch for a week. If that's you (and you have a Stafford, VA address), consider purchasing mulch from my son's Scouts BSA troop. The boys will deliver it right to your driveway on March 2nd or 3rd, saving you hours of schlepping all over Lowe's and back with a smelly car. Plus it helps out a great cause and allows kids like mine to go wilderness camping, learn stem skills, attend leadership training, and so much more.”

See [T2220.org/mulch](https://t2220.org/mulch) for more info, or message Kristy directly. We are taking orders now through Feb 22. Thank you for your consideration.

A Bit of Club History

Have you noticed that the club bulletin has a name? The first few years of our club's existence we had a club bulletin, but it didn't have a name. For many years District 7610 had a best club bulletin award. When the club president decided that our club should win this award he realized that the club bulletin needed a name. It took a couple of months of discussion before the club came up with the name “The Stafford Rotary Highlighter”. Not surprisingly, none of us really loved the name, but it was the name that the fewest club members objected to.

The club bulletin has undergone many physical changes over the years. For several years, we had the bulletin professionally printed. Before the majority of club members had email accounts, the bulletin was sent out by snail mail.

We did win that “Best Club Bulletin in the District” award for many years in a row. That award is no longer given. Coincidence? You decide.

Our District Grant – A Beautiful Library

Lena posted this report on Facebook when she and Donna returned from El Salvador: “Mission accomplished. The kids at Fundación Exodo in El Salvador now have a library to help them learn, grow and thrive. My heart is full of joy to have spent time getting to know the kids and their tías and tíos, who love and care for them. It was my privilege to honor and dedicate this library to a dear friend and sister in Christ, Irma Palencia, whose tremendous passion for children, missions and education continues to inspire. I am so grateful for all of the people, organizations and businesses that made this dream a reality. #e3Kids International Library Project”



2024 MULCH FUNDRAISER
TROOP 2220

ALL BAGS ARE
3 CU FT.
--- AND ---
\$6⁰⁰ /Bag

5% OFF
ON 25 TO 44 BAG ORDERS

10% OFF
ON 45 BAGS OR MORE

FREE DELIVERY
5 BAG MINIMUM

PAY ONLINE VIA ZELLE
PAYMENT IS DUE WHEN ORDERING. WE ACCEPT CASH AND CHECKS.

BSA Troop 2220 is excited to announce that from now until February 22nd, we will be selling high-quality mulch to raise funds for our troop. Not only will you be supporting the growth and development of our youth, but you'll also be improving the appearance of your own yard!

Our mulch is produced locally by Norfleet Mulch, and made from 100% natural wood fibers, making it safe for plants and the environment.

Orders MUST be completed before February 22nd, 2023 to ensure delivery.

Deliveries are estimated to be March 2nd and 3rd to Stafford addresses and are front yard only. Our Scouts will neatly stack your order near/on driveway.

VISIT US ONLINE AT:
<https://www.t2220.org/mulch>

QUESTIONS: Contact Chris Canada at cccgraphics@gmail.com

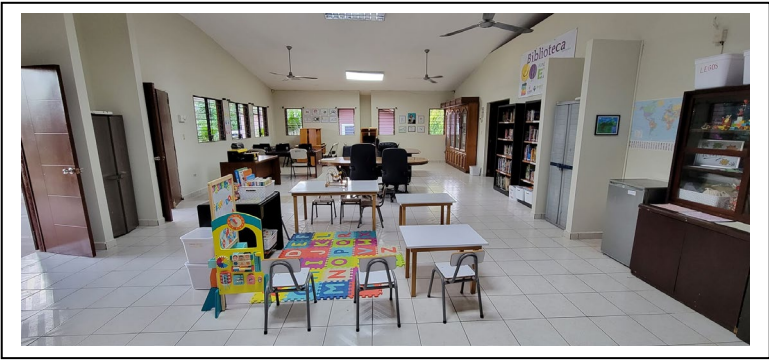
WASHINGTON ADED HARDWOOD

DYED MIDNIGHT BLACK

DYED COFFEE BROWN

DYED CARDINAL RED

VIRGINIA FINES SPECIAL BLEND



Strengthening Positive Peace to Create Hope in the World

A Day to Learn, Reflect & Exchange Ideas

February 24, 2024 at Stevenson Ridge
6901 Meeting Street, Fredericksburg, VA

Registration is now open for the District 7610 Peacebuilding Conference. Please use this link:

<https://registrations.dacdb.com/Register/index.cfm...>

Our Presenters

The Eight Pillars of Positive Peace



Opening speaker Rotary Foundation Trustee (2022-2026) Marty Helman has served Rotary as chair of the Peace Major Gifts Initiative and on the working group to select a site for the new peace center.



Juliette Rouge Ph.D., an active practitioner working internationally on peacebuilding in divided communities will speak and facilitate an interactive session on Handling Difficult Conversations.



Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) Peacebuilder Ambassador Bill Cawley will present the Eight Pillars which form the essential framework for Positive Peace.



Connecting Positive Peace with the Rotary Four-way Test will end the day facilitated by District 7610 Rotary Global Grant Scholar co-chair Jenna Edwards and District 7610 Governor 2025-2026 chief of staff Wayne Murphy.

