

THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

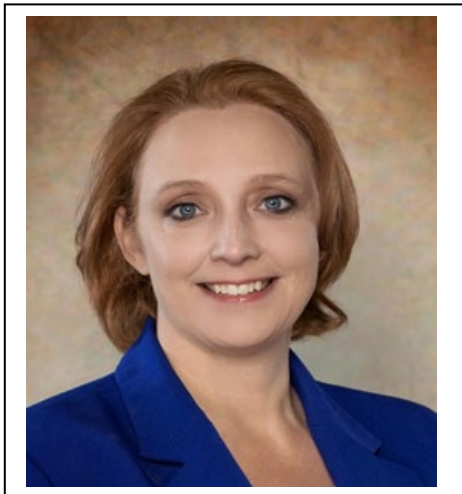
December 13, 2023



December 13 Program - AG Cheri Maea and Annual Club Meeting

Dr. Cheri Maea, Dean Workforce Enrollment Germanna Community College

Dr. Maea is a passionate advocate for community education and the role that education plays in improving the lives of students and the overall health of the community. She served honorably in the United States Army for six years and then was a military spouse.



After leaving the Army, Cheri pursued higher education and has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business, a professional accounting certificate, Education Specialist Degree and completed her Doctorate in Education in November.

When not at work, Cheri is dedicated to a life of service and currently serves as an Assistant Governor and Annual Fund Chair for Rotary District 7610. Cheri has four children and one grandchild.

Annual Club Meeting – Please Attend! Quorum Needed

Rotary Clubs usually hold their annual club meetings in December. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the next Rotary year, which begins July 1. The officers elected are: President Elect, Club Secretary and Club Treasurer. The incoming Club President was elected President Elect the previous December. This gives a full eighteen months for club presidents to be trained for their year as club president. **It is vital that we have a quorum for this meeting!**

Club Calendar December Is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

- ❖ December 13 – Annual club election & AG Cheri Maea
- ❖ December 20 – Holiday Party 6 pm
- ❖ December 27 – No Meeting
- ❖ January 3 - Susan Sigmon. Empower House
- ❖ January 10 – Official DG visit.
- ❖ Feb. /March 2024 -District Grant Seminar - Feb/Mar 2024
- ❖ District Training Assembly - April 2024
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 -Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ Fall, 2024 – District Conference

December 13 Meeting

President Jamie presided. He welcomed our guest speaker Myriam Brown, Executive Director of Stafford Junction .

Holly gave the thought for the day. It is a poem/prayer/song written by a member of the Israeli Underground who was killed as a direct result of her activities.

“My God, my God, let it never be finished.
The sand and the sea,
The Voice of the water,
The thunder of the heavens,
And the prayers of men.”

Holly learned this from her Israeli Hebrew teacher 60 years ago in Stockholm. Her teacher Nira met her husband when he was a member of the United Nations peacekeeping force guarding the Gaza Strip. That is what made it feel so timely for Holly. Nira married him and, when they returned to Stockholm, she became a dancer with the Royal Swedish theater.

Announcements:

- ❖ January 15 is the date for the trip to Chicago for the visit to RI Headquarters in Evanston. There are about 20 club members going from our club and other clubs in District 7610.
- ❖ The club holiday party will be on the evening of December 20 at Shekela's house. There is an online signup sheet. We should all bring desserts and small, gag gifts worth \$10 to \$15.
- ❖ December 15 is the last day for the discounted registration fee for the RI convention in Singapore.
- ❖ Troy has resigned from the club.
- ❖ Try to adhere to the setup schedule.
- ❖ PDG Sandy reported for the nominating committee. The slate of officers is:
President Elect – Kristy Freeman
Mike Smith – Treasurer
Dylan Oakes – Secretary, but he will need a backup
Sergeant-at-Arms – Debra Schleef
- ❖ Jake reported that dues statements have gone out for the quarter.
- ❖ Board meetings will be held the second Wednesday of the month.
- ❖ DG Rene's official club visit is scheduled for January 10. Because of this visit the January board meeting with DG Rene will be held on January 3 at 10 am.
- ❖ PDG Sandy reported that she has speakers scheduled for January, but is looking for speakers for Black History Month in February.
- ❖ Donna reported that Dr. Taylor helped distribute dictionaries at one of the elementary schools. Some of the children called him Mega Boss. We will partner with North Stafford Rotary to hold an essay contest for middle schoolers and a speech contest for high schoolers.
- ❖ DG Rene is sending out information on a Community Service project for January.

Program: Myriam Brown, Executive Director of Stafford Junction



Stafford Junction began in 2002. It is dedicated to improving lives through faith and action. The staff and volunteers are devoted to helping children and families in Stafford County who are struggling with poverty. Their mission is to provide meaningful support to those in need, focusing on education, empowerment, and healthy living. Stafford Junction works closely with residents, churches, service agencies, and businesses to build connections, foster understanding, and positively impact our community.

When the organization began it focused on the needs of the families in the Olde Forge neighborhood. Now Stafford Junction serves five neighborhoods in South Stafford and two neighborhoods in North Stafford. Our club worked closely

with Stafford Junction to aid immigrant families who lived in Olde Forge.

Myriam reviewed the programs that Stafford Junction offers.

BRAIN BUILDERS

This program provides after-school tutoring and mentoring to students, offering guided reading and math review as well as homework assistance. Additionally, students receive a nutritious meal or snack, and have access to Tide Me Over bags that contain shelf-stable groceries to prepare a meal for a family of four.

HEALTHY LIVING PAYS

A comprehensive program that offers workshops, clinics, and classes to educate individuals of all ages on how to live a healthy lifestyle. With a focus on nutrition, physical activity, healthcare assessments, and mental well-being, this program provides tools and resources to help individuals adopt healthy habits. The program also offers family memberships to the Massad Family YMCA, health fairs, screenings, field trips, and Tide Me Over Bags to support healthy living.

LIFE SKILLS

This program for adults provides a range of beneficial services, such as classes, coaching, and referrals, to improve educational, professional, and basic living skills. These services include ESL, GED, and financial seminars, as well as Tide Me Over Bags.

SUMMER JUNCTION

This program includes all the summer camps, activities, and field trips available through Stafford Junction and our partnership with Stafford County Sheriff's Office. From the SCSO Sports Camp, STEAM Camp, and Soccer Clinic at Olde Forge, to our five-week Camp Junction, there's something for ages K-12. Camp Junction focuses on making learning fun and reinforcing math and reading skills to combat summer learning loss. Participants also enjoy a healthy lunch and snacks and have access to Tide Me Over bags.

She also told us about the Holiday Giving Project that includes meals for family and gifts for 149 children. She also suggested ways we can help: Volunteering; Meals; Monetary Donations, School Supplies, and Holiday Giving.

A Bit of Club History

The Rafferty Poll was a weekly opinion poll that was created by charter member Jim Rafferty who served as Sergeant-at-Arms for several years until he moved to Northern Virginia. The poll results were tallied and read at the end of the meeting. Sometime the questions were quite serious about current events, but often they were hilariously silly.

After Rafferty left the club Buck Jacoby took over the job of Sergeant-at-Arms and continued with the weekly poll until the tragic 2006 plane crash that took the lives of three club members: PDG Graham Green, Rick Potter, Buck Jacoby, and their friend Gus Pappas.

Setup Schedule

The schedule is based on your last name:

A-E - January, May, September

F-K - February, June, October

L-P - March, July, November

Q-Z - April, August, December

If your last name falls within the designated month, here are your responsibilities:

- ❖ Please try to come to Paradise about a half hour early, when possible.
- ❖ Setup the 3 main banners on the wall -- 4 way test, district governor flag, Stafford Rotary flag
- ❖ Bring the podium out, add the wheel to the podium
- ❖ Set up the bell and gavel
- ❖ Set out the Stafford Rotary meets here A-frame sign outside the door
- ❖ Set up the tables in our usual meeting formation, with a Sergeant at Arms greeter table by the door
- ❖ Where possible, set up our new metal pole signs
- ❖ Put out the Create Hope in the World banner
- ❖
- ❖ Set out the American flag

If you won't be at the meeting, try to contact another Rotarian to help in your stead.

