

# THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

January 17, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford  **People of Action**

## January 17 Program - David P. Decatur, Sheriff Stafford County, Virginia

Sheriff David P. Decatur was just re-elected November 7, 2023, to serve Stafford County for four more years, and we are honored to welcome him as our Stafford Rotary Club speaker, Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

Sheriff Decatur started his law enforcement career in 1986 with the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, after serving as an Airborne Paratrooper in the United States Army. He served two years as a Deputy Sheriff/Deputy Sheriff Sergeant assigned to Jail Operations, then advancing to a Patrol Deputy assigned to Field Operations. Sheriff Decatur has served in numerous positions in the Sheriff's Office to include First Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain prior to being elevated to the position of Major (Chief Deputy) in 2000. He was also a SWAT Commander and Instructor. Sheriff Decatur was elected Sheriff on November 3, 2015, and took office on January 1, 2016.



Throughout his career at the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Decatur created and now instructs an Active Shooter Countermeasures Training program which provides training to all Stafford County School employees, Stafford County Government employees and community members and businesses. Early in his career he created the Field Training Officer program which later became a model used by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. He is a Certified School SHIELD Security Assessor, a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor and Tactical Operations Instructor and has instructed in other areas such as community policing and leadership.

## Club Calendar January Is Vocational Service Month

- ❖ January 17 - Sheriff David Decatur
- ❖ January 24 - Yvette Blake
- ❖ January 31 - Club Social
- ❖ February 7 - Mark Cook, Shelter Box
- ❖ February 14 - TBD
- ❖ February 21 - PDG Leigh Hudson, D7710 - Roots of Rotary
- ❖ February 23 - Rotary is 118 years old.
- ❖ February 28 - Club Social
- ❖ March 6 - TBD
- ❖ March 13 - TBD
- ❖ March 20 - Dr. Thomas Taylor - STAFFORD COUNTY School Superintendent
- ❖ March 2024 - District Grant Seminar
- ❖ District Training Assembly - April 2024
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 - Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ Fall, 2024 - District Conference

He is also a graduate of the DEA's Drug Unit Commanders Academy, FBI National Academy and the Virginia Commonwealth University's Public Safety Institute and attended the Leading, Educating and Developing (LEAD) program at the University of Virginia designed for high performance government organizations. Sheriff Decatur is a member of the Virginia Sheriff's Association and the Virginia FBI National Academy Association. He currently serves on the State Board of Directors for Virginia Special Olympics.

## January 10 Meeting

President Jamie presided. PDG Sandy gave the thought of the day, a quote from clinical psychologist, Dr. Amy Sullivan: "Silence offers opportunities for self-reflection and daydreaming, which activates multiple parts of the brain. It gives us time to turn down the inner noise and increase awareness of what matters most. And it cultivates mindfulness -recognition and appreciation of the present moment."

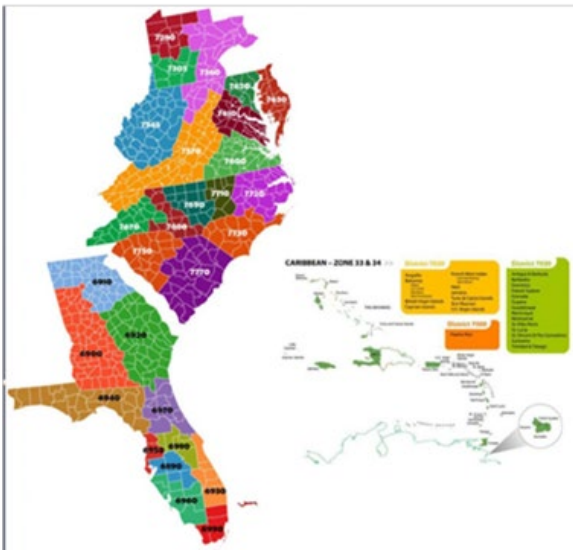
### Announcements:

- ❖ President Jamie discussed the need to work harder on getting new club members. PDG Sandy asked if we were still members of the Regional Chamber of Commerce. After checking, President Jamie said that we had let our membership lapse. This needs to be corrected. DG Rene said that she is an active Chamber member and has access to the directory. We need club members in every classification.
- ❖ Jake reported that our finances are in good shape, and our books are up to date.
- ❖ Jake also announced that we have reserved the Bowman Distillery for our Casino Night would be held April 27.
- ❖ PDG Sandy announced that Sheriff Decatur would be the January 17 speaker. Dylan is exploring the possibility of a tour of CBS- Channel 9 for a club meeting.
- ❖ Cheri announced that the Via Colori committee would meet in February.

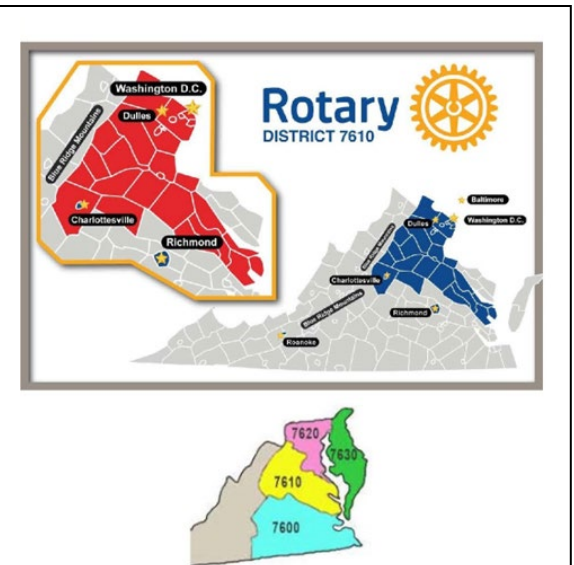
## Program: District Governor Rene Laws

PDG Sandy introduced DG Rene. DG Rene first talked about RI President Gordon McNally. He has asked us to focus on three very important initiatives for the 2023-24 RY :

- ❖ Prioritizing mental health.
- ❖ Peacebuilding.
- ❖ Empowering women and girls



DG Rene discussed her own journey to physical and mental wellness and how important Rotary has been to her on that journey. More than 264 million people worldwide are affected by depression, according to the



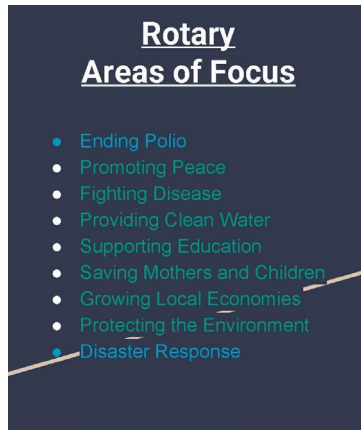
World Health Organization, and although many mental health conditions can be effectively treated at relatively low cost, many people who need treatment do not receive it.

She discussed how our club and our district fit into the Commonwealth and into the entire world of Rotary. Our district is located in Zone 33, and we are paired with Zone 34.

DG Rene has a couple of extra items of focus for our district in Rotary Year 2023-24:

- ❖ END POLIO NOW- Our club leads our district in membership in the PolioPlus Society.
- ❖ Four Way Test – She reminded us to use this as a reflective tool, not a weapon.

She discussed the Rotary areas of focus and how Rotary programs address them.



### Programs

- Mental Health Initiatives
- Youth Programs
  - RYLA
  - Youth Contests
  - Youth Summit
- PeaceBuilder Clubs
  - Peace Conference
- Environmental Committee
- Grants
- Foundation
  - Polio Plus Society
  - End Polio Now
- Scholarships
  - Global
  - Peace
  - Youth

DG Rene concluded her presentation by announcing that President Jamie is now a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation. She awarded him his pin, certificate and crystal.



During the Happy Cup time, Donna announced that she and Lena are off to El Salvador to set up a school library in an orphanage near San Salvador.



Donna wasn't the only club member traveling this week. President Jamie took some brave Stafford and District 7610 Rotarians to frozen Illinois to visit Rotary International Headquarters. Here are some pictures.





## A Bit of Club History

When I was searching the files on my older computer, I found this photo of a newspaper clipping about our club's charter night, April 11, 1990. This is the first club board of directors. The reporter named on the photo is Mary Stoner, who later became Mary Rose. Mary joined the club on charter night. She was a reporter and advertising salesperson for the **Potomac Sun** at the time.



**JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH**