



Season's Greetings Members of District 7620!

I hope you and your family are enjoying celebrating this holiday season. It's good to take time to celebrate family traditions, to rest, and to reflect on the successes (and the challenges) of the past calendar year. In reflecting, we gain fresh perspective for the future, and we can adjust our momentum to ensure that we are on track to meet our goals for Rotary Year 2023-2024.

During the first six months of this Rotary Year, District 7620 made tremendous strides in service to our local communities and around the world. We are growing and diversifying our membership and our membership results continue to shine brightly among the thirty-one Districts in Zones 33-34. Our Rotaract members are fully engaged and making an impact as young professionals. District 7620 continues to give generously to The Rotary Foundation and has successfully provided new and exciting training for our district leaders, club leaders and for our youth.



Thank you for ALL that you do in the name of Rotary International. It is great to be a Rotarian, to give back to the community and to live by the motto of "Service Above Self". Together, we are making a difference as we unite to make lasting change and continue our efforts to *Create Hope in the World*.

My husband and I send our best wishes to you for a Prosperous and Happy 2024! We are excited to see what the next 6 months will bring!

Yours In Rotary Service,

James and Delores

Delores Edwards Harding
District Governor 2023-2024

Winter Wonderland Holiday Party

The District hosted its First Winter Wonderland Holiday Party on December 17th at The Meeting House in Columbia, MD. The venue was perfect for a special holiday gathering, and the Holiday Party Planning Committee did an amazing job with decorations and converting the Howard County Inter-Faith facility into a warm and inviting Holiday Party scene. Chef Paulino Café provided a catered Italian dinner buffet, and the environment was perfect for a Rotary holiday fellowship. The event opened with ice-breakers, trivia games and prizes, holiday music, a caricature artist, and DJ and dancing!



[Read More](#)

January is Rotary's Vocational Service Month



VOCATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

- â€¢ Host a business networking event with non-Rotary professionals in your community.
- â€¢ Offer career counseling for unemployed or underemployed adults.
- â€¢ Mentor young people to achieve their career goals.
- â€¢ Apply your professional skills to a club or district service project.
- â€¢ Lend your expertise through your district's resource network, by joining a Rotary Action Group, or by joining or starting a

professionally-oriented Fellowship.

- â€¢ Work with your District Rotary Friendship Exchange chair to organize a vocationally-oriented exchange to explore how your profession is practiced in another country and introduce international friends to how yours is practiced in your country.

- â€¢ Work with your District Rotary Foundation Committee to organize a Vocational Training Team to travel abroad to teach local professionals about a particular field or to learn more about your own.

Dawn Wittfelt, Rotary District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND), Sykesville-South Carroll Rotary

It is with pleasure that I inform you that the 2023-2024 District Governor Selection Committee, Chaired by Past District Governor Sean McAlister, has chosen our next District Governor for Rotary Year 2026-2027.



2026-27 District Governor

Dawn Wittfelt was nominated to be Rotary District 7620's District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) and will serve as our 2026-2027 District Governor. Dawn first joined Rotary as a member of the Rotary Club of Sykesville-South Carroll in 2007, and later served as their 2012-2013 and 2015-2016 Club President. She has also served at the District level since 2014, and has had the honor of serving under nine District Governors.

[Read More](#)

Rotary Club of Parole Early Act Pilot

The Rotary Club of Parole successfully piloted the District's first Early Act club with Tyler Heights Elementary school in Annapolis. Flora Bartek learned about the Early Act club during her first Rotary International convention in Houston last year, and with support from her club was able to launch the pilot.



The Early Act club pilot included 8 ambitious students from the 4th and 5th grades, along with their 2 school coordinators who performed a local, community and an International project. The Parole Club facilitated the Early Actors International project to collect and distribute soft medical supplies for an elementary school in Oaxaca, Mexico.

[Read More](#)

Metro Bethesda Rotary Spearheads Three Projects in Turkey

Metro Bethesda Rotary is pleased to announce the successful completion in 2023 of three international projects in Turkey led by MBR member Nuray Anahtar. The largest, a global grant for a palliative care unit, totaled over \$64K. The other initiatives were disaster response-funded programs following a magnitude 7.8 earthquake that displaced 1.5 million people in Turkey's southeast region. These included the purchase of two restroom trailers (\$11.5K) as well as three hospital mechanical ventilators (\$22.5K).

[Read More](#)

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

**District 7620 - Rotary Youth Leadership
Awards (RYLA)**

**February 17-19, 2024 - President's Day
Weekend**



RYLA

Camp Letts - Edgewater, Maryland

RYLA7620.org

Registration for this year's Rotary Youth Leadership event is now open for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders throughout Central Maryland and DC!

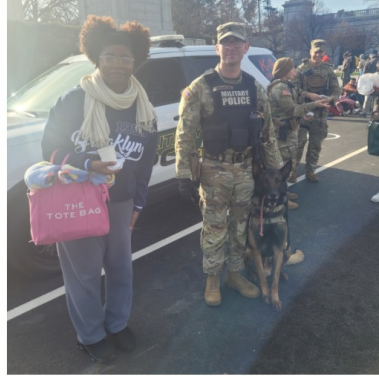
Registration for RYLA 2024 is \$410.00 per student and closes on February 12th. [Read More](#)

2023 Wreaths Across America Area 7 Service Event



On Saturday December 16th, Rotary District 7620 Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors participated in the 2023 Wreaths Across America at the Arlington National Cemetery. It was a wonderful and touching event indeed. Thank you **Rotary Club of Capitol Hill** and **PDG Sean McAlister** for leading this service event for Area 7 and our District. #PeopleOfAction #ServiceAboveSelf





Rotary Club of Baltimore 2024 Oyster Roast | 02/03/24



Rotary Club of Baltimore 2024 Oyster Roast

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

12:00pm-4:00pm

La Fontaine Bleue Caterers

7514 S Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

\$85 per person when order forms and payment are received by 1/20/24

\$100 per person if payment is received after 1/20/24

Please note the following: You must be over 21 years of age to attend this event. Also, unfortunately, the venue's liquor license prohibits bringing in alcoholic beverages. There will be packaged goods for sale at nominal prices and a cash bar.

Questions? Contact "King Oyster" (Howard Weisberg) at howard@hbwins.com or 410-908-2652

Download the Reservation form [HERE](#)



District Governor Delores Edwards Harding at the induction of two new members at Cafe Gia, Baltimore.

Disaster Update – Top Fifteen Disasters of Recent Years



By Bob Grill, President, Disaster Aid USA; Paul Mahata, Co-Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee
District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to disasters. Our recent focus is on the Tennessee Tornadoes. We are helping the victims of this disaster, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. So far, we have helped in 60 disasters since 2011; and here we include a list of the TOP FIFTEEN DISASTERS. Our thanks to

you for your help and support in all these disasters.

TOP FIFTEEN DISASTERS of Recent Years:

- 2012 Moore, Oklahoma -Tornado
- 2015 South Carolina – Flooding
- 2017 Texas and Louisiana - Hurricane Harvey
- 2017 Puerto Rico, Haiti, British Virgin Islands – Hurricane Maria
- 2018 Hawaii (Hilo & Kauai) – Mudslides and Volcano
- 2019 Maryland – Ellicott City Floods and Mt. Airy Tornado
- 2020 Maryland – COVID -19 Pandemic
- 2020 India – Oxygen concentrators for COVID patients
- 2021 Haiti – Earthquake
- 2021 Midwest – Tornadoes
- 2022 Florida – Hurricane IDA
- 2022 Ukraine – War Relief & Refugee Crisis
- 2022 Pakistan – Flooding
- 2023 Turkey – Earthquake
- 2023 Hawaii (Maui) – Fires

[Read More](#)

USPHS Making an Impact Through Collaboration with Rotary International

Mental health is an essential aspect of overall well-being, and it holds particular significance for the youth of our nation. As we navigate the complex challenges of the 21st century, understanding and addressing the mental health needs of young people is of paramount importance. Adolescents are facing an array of stressors and challenges that impact their mental health. Academic pressures, social expectations, and the omnipresence of digital devices have contributed to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues among adolescents and young adults. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these concerns, with lockdowns, isolation, and uncertainty taking a toll on the mental well-being of youths.



Authors: CAPT Nina Mezu-Nwaba PharmD., MPH., MSc., CDR Sadaf Nabavian PharmD., CDR Reginald Smith, JD, MBA, BSN, RN, CDR James Speckhart MS, REHS, COHC, CDR Lisa Tung, PharmD, MPH, and LCDR Folaremi Adeyemo PharmD., RAC, PMP [Read More](#)

District Rotaract Meeting

The District Rotaract Team met with DG Delores for a Strategic Planning meeting and to recap a successful, first six months of Rotary Year 2023-2024. District Chair Michael Skerritt, Vice Chair Nil Federic, and District Rotaract Representative Loralli Johnson met via Zoom and shared the latest updates on our various Rotaract Clubs in Maryland and Washington DC. Starting in January 2024, DG Delores will resume Club Visits to meet with active Community and University-based Rotaract Clubs.



Open your heart to help others this Valentine's Day!

The **2024 Valentine's Gala** will be held on Saturday evening, **February 10, 2024**. The **Columbia Town Center Rotary Club** hosts this annual event to raise funds for local charities, projects and organizations we support.

We are thrilled to bring back this popular dinner-dance event. The food is always good, the silent auction is very popular and the dance floor is always full to the very last song! We hope that you will join us this coming February for another fun-filled Valentine's Gala!

[Read More](#)



All event proceeds go to local charities



\$130 per person

sponsored by:



For tickets, sponsorships & event details, including a list of charities we support, scan the QR code or go to:

vgala24.givesmart.com

image by brgfx on Freepik

DC Rotary Foundation Grant Applications Now Open!



We are pleased to announce that the DC Rotary Foundation 2023-2024 grant application cycle is now open. Please help us spread the word to eligible 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations serving Washington, DC residents by sharing this post with them.

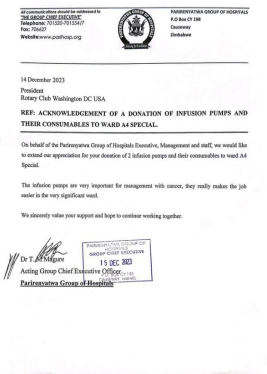
We will issue grants in the following categories: [Read More](#)

Rotary Red Line Happy Hour

Our November Rotary District 7620 Red Line Happy Hour at Proper 21 was a success indeed! It was filled with laughter, fellowship and fun! Thank you **DC Rotary Club** for hosting!



DC Rotary Club - A December to Remember!!!



The Rotary Club of Harare Dawn in Zimbabwe handed over a donation of Infusion Pumps to Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals for pediatric patients. This is a worthwhile donation by the **DC Rotary Foundation** as promised at last year's handover from the partnership between the **Harare Dawn Rotary Club** and the **Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.** #PeopleoAction #ServiceAboveSelf



Are you still thinking about sending local highschoolers to the District 7620 2024 RYLA ?!?



Rotary Clubs, are you still thinking about sending local highschoolers to the District 7620 2024 RYLA ?!?

The District RYLA Committee has great news for you. On **Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:00 PM** we will be hosting a virtual webinar to teach you the nuts and bolts about RYLA and answer any questions you may have.

Register Here: [Provide Registration Link]

Zoom Link : [Provide Zoom Link]



Please visit our website at RYLA7620.ORG for more information.

Where to find RYLA 2024 students?

[Read More](#)

Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

Grateful for the festive spirit at the Rotary Club of Washington DC holiday party [@dcrotaryclub](#). Rotaract members came together to celebrate, connect, and share the joy of the season. Hereâ€™s to building stronger communities and spreading goodwill! [#RotaractDC](#) [#RotaryHolidayParty](#)



A fantastic evening at the Rotaract Club of Washington DCâ€™s December monthly meeting and happy hour! A huge shoutout to everyone who joined us, making it [Read More](#)

Rotaract Club of Howard University

Happy Holidays for our family to yours!
We hope everyone has a great break and stays safe!

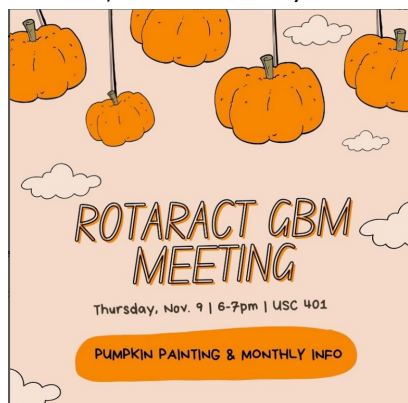


Rotaract Club of George Washington University

On Saturday, December 9th, Blanket making with [@humanityfirstgwu](#). All donated to Miriam's Kitchen!
On Wednesday, November 15th, & Pizza pizza and slice sale to support GWU Rotaract! 11am to 10pm.



On Thursday, November 9th, Monthly meeting and pumpkin painting.
On Tuesday, October 24th, World Polio Day fundraiser!

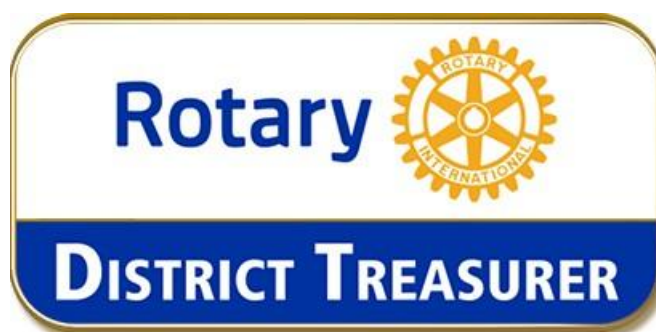


[Read More](#)

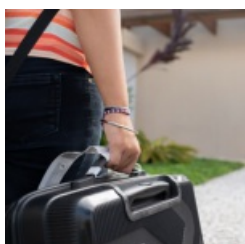
Recruiting a District Treasurer

As we continue to strengthen our district and enhance our community service initiatives, the importance of robust financial management cannot be overstated. In light of this, we are currently seeking a dedicated individual to serve as our District Treasurer. This role is essential for the smooth financial operation of our district and requires a candidate with a background in finance or related fields. The position involves overseeing our financial transactions, managing budgets, ensuring compliance with financial reporting, and providing valuable guidance on fiscal matters.

[Read More](#)



Rotary Youth Exchange: A member's perspective



Shauna Ganes, Rotary Public Image Chair from District 5190, knows that even a short Rotary Youth Exchange experience can lead to a lifetime of connection! Read Shauna's [blog post](#) to learn about her district's short-term exchange program and why she believes that Rotary Youth Exchange "builds peace one young person at a time."

[Read the Blog Here](#)

Rotary's 2022-23 annual report is now available

In this year's annual report, we look back at some of our most memorable moments, share inspirational stories of clubs making a difference, and learn from donors about why they contribute to The Rotary Foundation.

[Learn More Here](#)



2024 Rotary Action Plan Survey coming in January/February



Rotary members have an important role in shaping our organization's strategic plan. In late January and early February, Rotary will send a survey to a sample of our members to learn more about how you feel about our current strategic direction and what you want to see from Rotary in the future. Your insights will help guide Rotary leadership's decision-making about the Action Plan, governance, and

more.

If you receive an email with a link to the survey, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with Rotary International.

Four-Way Test

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

District 7620 Newsletter Team:

Bob Nelson, PDG, Chair
Ashley Waters, District Public Image Chair

ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

TOGETHER WE SEE A WORLD
PEOPLE UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
TO **CREATE** LASTING
CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES