



## District Governor Delores Edwards Harding's Report



District 7620 Rotarians and Rotaractors, Happy New Month! May is already underway, and we are focusing our attention on Youth Service programs in Rotary. As the fifth Avenue of Service, Rotary focuses on Youth and Young Professionals through Leadership development programs worldwide. Please feel free to learn more about our core Youth Programs in Rotary via the following Rotary International website links: [Rotaract](#); [Interact](#); [Rotary Youth Exchange \(RYE\)](#), and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) [www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/rotary-youth-leadership-awards](http://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/rotary-youth-leadership-awards).

During Rotary Year 2023-2024, I have chosen to focus on Youth as one of my four District Governor Priorities. We have hosted events all year long for Early Act, Interactors, Rotaractors, RYE and RYLA. The Youth of our District are smart, energetic and have a bright future in Rotary. I highly encourage you to attend one of their club meetings, or to volunteer to assist a District Committee which supports these Youth programs.



### Focus on Foster Care

The month of May is National Foster Care Month. As a Child Advocate for many years in Maryland, I helped provide legal representation to children who were victims of child abuse and neglect, and who were involved in the State's Foster Care System. This Month we are placing an intense spotlight on children in care. Many are languishing in both the Maryland and Washington, DC child welfare systems, and some children age out of the system, and never have the opportunity to connect to a caring adult, or to be adopted by a loving family.



The District Foster Care Committee and the Rotary Club of Washington, DC, under the leadership of District Committee Chair Sofia DeMartino and Club President Lisa Cohen respectively, have coordinated several events for District Rotarians to support. Our vision for this year was to educate District 7620 members on the importance of helping foster care children. We wanted to encourage District Clubs to support financially, or to donate items or clothing to these special children in our communities. Most foster care children are overlooked every single day, and do not have the most basic of needs which we as Rotarians readily have at our disposal. If you wish to volunteer or support these foster care activities, more information will be forthcoming through email via the District Foster Care Committee.



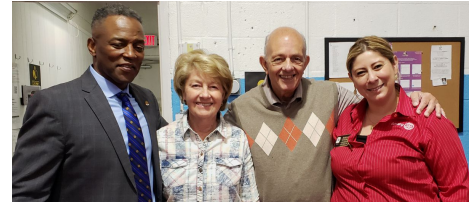
### Special Foster Care Events in May

On May 3-4<sup>th</sup>, DC Rotary Club successfully hosted an inaugural Championship Fight For Youth Golf Tournament (Rock Creek Park Golf Course) and Birthday Bash (Washington, DC Table Tennis Academy) for foster care children in the District of Columbia. The Club received a District Grant to host a "Move Dignity Project" for children in care. Over 100 pieces of luggage were purchased or



donated, and wrapped for foster care children in District 7620. A wonderful birthday celebration was coordinated to include DJ Mocha Java (our District Conference DJ), ping-pong games, inspirational speakers, and birthday cake! It was a great fellowship for all in attendance.

Congratulations to President Lisa Cohen for being the first to spearhead this signature event for District 7620. Her vision was to ensure that children in care receive a piece of luggage, instead of using grocery or garbage bags to carry their personal belongings from foster care placement to placement. Thank You Lisa for your caring heart, and your Service Above Self!



### 2024 Spring District Conference - Cambridge, MD

Did you attend the 2024 District Conference on April 19-21 in Cambridge, MD? If not, you missed a wonderful, District-wide celebration of the 2023-2024 Rotary Year! As promised, we hosted an event which allowed Rotarians to connect and fellowship with each other; to learn more about Rotary and District initiatives; and to simply relax and have fun! Thank you for investing in this event, and for making the trip to Cambridge! The venue was beautiful, and we were able to recharge in Rotary by the water!



On behalf of the District Conference Planning Committee, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of our District Conference Sponsors (all giving levels), Speakers, Emcee, DG Lines and Volunteers. Your financial contributions, and your Service Above Self at the District Conference were invaluable. Our event was a tremendous success because of your efforts and support.

Special recognition is also given to the entire District Conference Committee led by Chair Ashley Waters and Co-Chair Temrah Okonski. The Planning Team included: Marci Glavin, Marilyn Nevy Cruz, Cornell Smith, Dave Vogel, Elizabeth and Mark Milby, Deborah Burgess, Monique Toussaint, Elizabeth Moody, Carletta Allen and the Hyatt Regency Hotel Staff. Thank you all for your time and hard work!



### End of Year Celebration and District Governor Awards - May 31, 2024 - Howard County, MD

During the District Conference, I promised to give recognition to our District Leaders who have gone "over and above" in service to our District. Special recognition was given in Cambridge to: Assistant Governor Ashley Waters (District Service Above Self Award), and to Assistant Governor Marilyn Nevy Cruz (District Rotarian of the Year).

As a Grand Finale to the District Conference, additional District Governor Awards and recognition will be given on May 31, 2024, at our inaugural End of Year Celebration and District Awards event at The Meeting House in Columbia, MD. It is my hope that the members of District 7620 will plan to attend this special gathering to celebrate Rotarians from around the District. I look forward to seeing you there! Additional information about this event is forthcoming! Save the Date!



Have a Marvelous Month of May!

Yours In Rotary Service,

Delores Edwards Harding  
District Governor 2023-2024

## May is Youth Service Month

Every May, Rotary International celebrates Youth Service Month! We invite you to spend this time highlighting the leadership development and service impact of the more than 350,000 young leaders who participate in Rotary International's youth programs each year. RSVP to the [Facebook Event](#) to learn ways to celebrate and receive updates throughout the month.



### [JOIN THE CELEBRATION](#)

## Club Leadership Training - REGISTER NOW!



**When:** Saturday, May 18, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Where:** Virtual

**Who:** All Club Leaders and Members!

[Register NOW](#) for **District 7620 Club Leadership Training**

*Please contact District Trainer, Chris Zabriskie at [district7620trainer@gmail.com](mailto:district7620trainer@gmail.com) with any questions.*

Club Leadership Training, Scheduled for Saturday, May 18th is being moved to a VIRTUAL format. We hope this will open the opportunity to a broader audience. There's no registration fee. This is for all Rotarians who want to learn more about Rotary and being a better future leader of their clubs. [Register NOW](#) for **District 7620 Club Leadership Training** (once you register you will received the Zoom meeting link and reminders).

See the agenda below: [Read More](#)

## DC Rotary Foundation Awards \$195,000 in Community Service Grants



We are very pleased to announce that the Clubâ€™s and Foundationâ€™s Boards at their April meetings have adopted the recommendations of the DC Rotary Club Community Service Grants Committee and awarded a total of **\$195,000** in grants to worthy non-profits serving the DMV.

Special Project Grants in the amount of \$20,000 each (for a total of \$120,000) were granted to the following six organizations:

<b>Becky Lee Women's Support Fund</b>	<b>Kingman Boys &amp; Girls Club</b>
<b>Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)</b>	<b>Light The Way Foundation</b>
<b>Christ House</b>	<b>Smith Center for Healing and the Arts</b>

The seventeen organizations which were granted a \$5,000 Community Service Grant (except as noted) are as follows:

- **An Open Book Foundation**
- **Common Good City Farm (\$1,500)**
- **DC Youth Orchestra Program (DCYOP)**
- **Everybody Wins DC (\$2,500)**
- **Food Justice DMV**
- **GALA Hispanic Theatre**
- **Georgetown Ministry Center**
- **Girls on the Run-DC**
- **Libertyâ€™s Promise (\$2,000)**
- **New Futures (\$4,000)**
- **Next Level Tennis and Education**
- **Richard Wright Public Charter Schools**
- **Studio Acting Conservatory**
- **Suited for Change**
- **Salvation Army National Capital Area Command**
- **The Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic Arts**
- **Woodley House**

[Read More](#)

## Carroll Creek Rotary Club Launches Gender-based Violence Prevention Program

### **NO MEANS NO!**

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek has been a driving force in the chartering of the Rotary E-Club of the Karoo Region in South Africa, as a satellite club of the Rotary Club of Kimberley. The Maryland club's South Africa Ambassador Jonathan Warner currently serves as Secretary of the Karoo club, and Past Carroll Creek Rotary Club President Ashley Waters and International Committee member Richard Foot are Affiliate Members of the Karoo club, participating monthly in the virtual meetings via Zoom. Since its inception, the Karoo club has channeled its energies in a triad of youth-oriented public health initiatives - Education and Prevention around Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Menstrual Hygiene Management, and Gender-based Violence education and prevention.

[Read More](#)



## Parole Rotary Foundation Gives \$30,000 in Grants

Sunday, April 21, 2024



The Parole Rotary Foundation, Inc. will be distributing \$30,000 in grants to 12 local charities from across Anne Arundel County. This year the Parole Rotary received 45 applications. The Parole Rotary Foundation Grants Program seeks to address issues of food security, family well-being, and academic achievement by funding projects that serve the needs of children and families in the areas of education, health, and the arts. The applications were scored based on Community Impact, Potential for Success and

how aligned the agency is with the Foundation's goals. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and will be distributed at upcoming Parole Rotary meetings. This will be an opportunity for the agency representatives to meet those whose volunteer work raised the funds their agency will be receiving. The Grants Committee chair is Paul Racette, who worked with a team of Rotarians to review all the applications and narrow them down to the selection of award recipients.

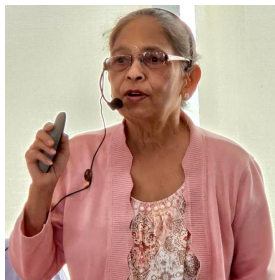
## Capitol Hill Rotary Club Supports DC Foster Children at 2024 Youth Summit

The Rotary Club of Capitol Hill assisted the Foster and Adoptive Parents Advocacy Center (FAPAC) in Washington, DC with their Second Annual Youth Summit April 6 and 7, 2024. The Youth Summit focuses on young adults in the DC foster care system as they approach aging out of the system. The Rotary Club of Capitol Hill provided volunteers at the summit and connected the organization to another non-profit organization, Operation Hope, to provide financial literacy training for summit attendees.



[Read More](#)

## Dr. Ila Shah: One Person Making a World of Difference



At the April 28 meeting of 28 internationally-minded, District club members and their guests, Dr. Ila Shah aptly demonstrated how one person can change the lives of others around the world. Hosted by the international service committees of the Rotary Club of Parole and the Rotary Club of Annapolis, the meeting also included representatives from the Rotary Club of Baltimore; the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.; the Rotary Club of Washington Global; and the Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall.

Nearly 30 years ago, Dr. Shah, a retired pediatrician, joined the Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall, and after seeing the crippling effects of polio on young children, set her sights on relieving the pain and suffering of thousands. She was soon sponsoring rehabilitative surgeries and prosthetics that permitted the young victims to walk again. How did she do it? She said she became a “professional beggar,” requesting funding for the polio surgeries from everyone she knew. And it worked!

But Dr. Shah did not limit her efforts to polio. Through over 30 Rotary global grants, Dr. Shah has provided clean water, toilets for schools, solar power, pre-natal care, gynecological services, corneal transplant and cataract surgeries, and benches for schools. [Read More](#)



## In Memoriam: Past District Governor Dr. John L. Sever

It is with sadness that I share news of the passing of Past District Governor Dr. John Sever of the Rotary Club of Potomac.

Dr. Sever was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, and joined Rotary in 1964 in Potomac, Maryland. He served as Club President from 1969-1970, and was our District Governor during Rotary Year 1978-1979.

As many of you may know, Dr. Sever is widely known as the Father of the Polio Initiative. His contributions to eradicating the disease have been immeasurable. Dr. Sever is known world-wide for his work with infectious diseases, and also Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Sever was married. He and his beautiful wife, Gerane, raised three daughters together; Kimberly, Beverly and Valerie.

The funeral will be held on June 1 at 3pm at Ingleside at King Farm, 701 King Farm Blvd., Rockville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rotary Polio Plus Program.

Please keep the Sever Family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Thank you.

YIRS,

**DEE.**

Delores Edwards Harding

District Governor 2023-2024

Rotary International District 7620 - Zone 33

Home Club: Rotary Club of Baltimore

Cell: 703-919-7001

Email: [deedst7@yahoo.com](mailto:deedst7@yahoo.com)



Article published by Rotary International:

[https://www.rotary.org/en/john-sever-champion-polio-eradication-dies?utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_profile=EndPolioNow&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.rotary.org/en/john-sever-champion-polio-eradication-dies?utm_campaign=&utm_medium=social&utm_profile=EndPolioNow&utm_source=twitter)



## Thank You for a Remarkable District Conference

Dear Rotarians,

I hope you are doing well.

Following the District Conference, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the past weekend. The District Conference was a testament to the dedication, passion, and commitment that each Rotactor and Rotarian brings to our organization. From the speakers to the engaging breakout sessions, every moment was filled with learning, fellowship, and the spirit of service.



[Read More](#)

## Marilyn Nevy Cruz (Washington DC) and Ashley Waters (Carroll Creek) Received Major Awards



During our Saturday Night Dinner at the District Conference, District Governor Delores presented two major awards to recognize two of our fellow Rotarians and District Leaders. Marilyn Nevy Cruz (Washington DC) was awarded the Rotarian of the Year award (left) and Ashley Waters (Carroll Creek) was awarded the Service Above Self award (right). Congratulations to both of these women - and thank you for all that you do for our clubs, districts, and Rotary as a whole!

## Red Line Happy Hour - REGISTER NOW!

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle  
**REGISTER NOW!**



**RD ROTARY RED LINE  
HAPPY HOUR**

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle  
RSVP on DACdb

**TUESDAY, MAY 21  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
KING ST. OYSTER  
BAR - CITY RIDGE  
7 RIDGE SQUARE NW**

**KING ST  
OYSTER  
BAR**

Come NETWORK with fellow Rotarians from Rotary and Rotaract Clubs along the Red Line: Bethesda-Chevy Chase • Capitol Hill • College Park • Downtown Silver Spring • Dupont Circle • Metro Bethesda • North Bethesda • Olney • Silver Spring • Kensington • Washington, D.C. • Washington Global • and Washington Area Rotaract Clubs

**Rotary Red Line Happy Hour**

The poster features a map of the Red Line Metro station area in the background, with various station names like Shady Grove, Rockville, Takoma, White Flint, Grosvenor, Medical Center, Bethesda, Friendship Heights, and others. A large yellow gear with the word 'ROTARY' is partially visible on the left side.

## Rotary Youth Exchange, Our Outbound Students

"Exchange is not a year in one's life, but a life in a year". This is a common saying among Rotarians, Rotex and Youth Exchange Students to describe Youth Exchange.

Both Tabitha and Elsie, two high school students from D7620, are experiencing just that this Rotary year. As they near the end of their time abroad, we would like to invite you to take a peek into their year. We would also like to introduce our outbound class of Rotary Youth Exchange Students for the Rotary year 2025-2026. [Read More](#)

# District Governor Installation Ceremony - Register NOW!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Saturday, 22 June 2024

WE INVITE YOU



**THE MAGIC OF ROTARY**

Rotary District 7620

Free Entry

**NOMIE HAMID'S DISTRICT GOVERNOR INSTALLATION**

TIME: **6PM - 9PM**  
MUSIC / FOOD / FESTIVITIES

Located:  
**College Park City Hall**  
7401 Baltimore Ave,  
College Park, MD, 20740

HOSTED BY:



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

Free Garage Parking Available



Please join us on this special day. We look forward to your presence. This is a family friendly event.

[bit.ly/4afv06Y](https://bit.ly/4afv06Y)

## Lunch Packing at DGN Mandyâ€™s!

On Tuesday, April 16th, the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle hosted one of their favorite service activities: preparing lunches for the residents of Friendship Place! Thank you DGN Mandy, a member of the Club for hosting such a wonderful event filled with fellowship, service and fun. A special shout-out to our AG Marilyn for attending our event.



## Towsontowne-Hunt Valley Rotary's Four-Way Test Competition at Hereford High School in Baltimore



## Rotary Founder Paul Harris Addresses Carroll Creek Rotary Club

On the occasion of his 156th birthday, Rotary Founder Paul Harris (Carroll Creek Rotarian Tad Janes) appeared via video at the Rotary Club of Carroll Creekâ€™s breakfast meeting this week. Harris was born on April 19, 1868 in Racine, Wisconsin.

The Chicago lawyer reflected on the founding of Rotary: â€œIn February of 1905 I called three young business men to meet with me and I laid before them a very simple plan of mutual cooperation and informal friendship such as all of us had once known in our villages. They agreed to my plan. [Read More](#)



## Dupont Circle Members are People of Action!

From time to time, the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle features members of their club being People of Action in the community. From top left:

**Thanks to everyone** who made our Homes not Borders move a success! We prepared a home for a family of five in under two hours. Great work!



[Read More](#)

## DC Rotary Foundation Career Fair

On Tuesday March 26th, the **Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.** hosted its annual Career Fair.

The students at the Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts were enthusiastic to learn about various career professional opportunities.



Several Club members, and community, government, corporate, and business leaders shared details of a variety of career paths.

**District Governor-elect for Rotary District 7620, Nomie Hamid**, offered his insight on entrepreneurial career possibilities, from the perspective of a successful businessman in the community.

[Read More](#)

## Disaster Update – Continued Deployment for Ohio Tornadoes



*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 recent disasters including Ohio Tornadoes. We are helping the disaster victims, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. We thank you for your past donations. Please see below a detailed

description of DAUSA deployments through April for the Ohio Tornadoes. [Read More](#)

## Rotary Red Line Happy Hour One Year Anniversary

One year ago, on April 19th, the [Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - Washington, DC](#) hosted the first revamped version of the Rotary Red Line Happy. As Assistant Governor, I've assisted with coordinating the ones following after and ensured to keep this tradition alive. One year later, here we are in full circle and our Area and Clubs are much closer than they've ever been. This has been one of the best things I've enjoyed doing for our Clubs. Here's to continued Fellowship, Friendship and Fun!





## Attend the Become a Champion for Youth Webinar



Rotary 

# BECOME A CHAMPION FOR YOUTH

 **SOPHIE ANDERSON**  
United States

 **MAYA POVHE**  
Canada

 **TAYLOR RANDALL**  
Australia

**ROTARY.ORG/WEBINARS**

**MAY** | **15** | **10 AM (UTC-5)**

Rotaryâ€™s youth programs, Interact, RYLA, and Rotary Youth Exchange, introduce young people to service and develop leadership skills. When Rotarians and Rotaractors learn to engage with youth in a way that makes young people feel seen and heard, young people develop a life-long relationship with Rotary. Learn directly from Rotaryâ€™s Youth Advisory Council during this webinar on **15 May at 10:00AM (UTC-5)**. By the end of this session, youâ€™ll be able to:

- Understand how young people find Rotary and become involved
- Explore the barriers to youth participation and find strategies to overcome them
- Develop a plan to create continued engagement with youth members and alumni

[\*\*REGISTER NOW\*\*](#)

## Transforming Lives One Bicycle at a Time

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creekâ€™s 18th annual Community Bicycle Collection on Saturday, April 20th netted 108 used-yet-serviceable bicycles and two sewing machines for Rockville, Maryland-based Bikes For The World. Over the past eighteen years the Carroll Creek Rotary Club has collected and shipped over 6,800 bicycles to developing regions of the world, fulfilling one of Rotaryâ€™s Areas of Focus - Community and Economic Development.

Bicycles and sewing machines collected will be packed in ocean-worthy shipping containers bound for ports on the continent of Africa, where NGO partners of Bikes For The World will recondition the bikes and distribute them for affordable transportation to school, healthcare and employment.



[Read More](#)

## Apply for a Rotary Peace Fellowship by 15 May

Rotary offers fully funded master's degrees and professional development certificate programs for young professionals with three to five years of experience in peace and development. They study at premier universities around the world, gaining knowledge, skills, and global networks to be effective peacebuilders. [Learn more](#) about this unique opportunity and [apply now](#) or in future years.



[APPLY NOW](#)

## Joint District 7610-7620 District Conference - REGISTER NOW!

**When:** Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6, 2024

**Where:** Westin City Center, Washington, D.C.

**Price:** Early Bird \$275, First 50 new members \$225, Rotaractors \$200

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Hotel:** \$161 + tax and fees (includes \$8 donation to PolioPlus)

<https://book.passkey.com/go/Rotaryinter>

**DISCON 2024**  
FRIDAY, OCT 4-6, 2024  
THE WESTIN WASHINGTON, DC CITY CENTER  
1400 M ST. NW. WASHINGTON, DC 20005

**THE MAGIC OF ROTARY**

ENHANCE PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

BREAKOUT SESSIONS    FRIDAY EMBASSY EVENT

SERVICE PROJECT    HOSPITALITY SUITES

SATURDAY DINING IN DC RESTAURANTS

MENTAL HEALTH MORNING MOMENTS: WALKING GROUPS & YOGA & COFFEE MEET UPS

**Rotary**  
DISTRICTS 7610 AND 7620

## DGE Nomie Visits the DC Rotaract Club

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our monthly meeting! We were honored to have **DGE Mr. Nomie Hamid**, Founder & CEO of Virtual X Kitchen, who shared his insights on entrepreneurship and social responsibility. It was an inspiring discussion that left us all motivated to make a positive impact. After the meeting, we continued the conversation and networked at a nearby bar during our happy hour. Hereâ€™s to fostering connections and working towards a brighter future together!



## Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

We had the opportunity to volunteer at a community garden with [@cityblossoms](#) and our sponsoring DC Rotary Club. We are committed to supporting the environment, which is one of Rotayâ€™s areas of focus. Stay tuned for our following community service events.



*Recap of a Wonderful Fellowship and Cooking Class!*

We had an incredible time at our recent fellowship event combined with a fun cooking class! Our Rotaractors [Read More](#)

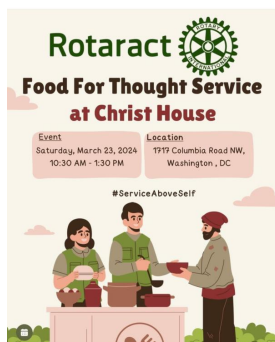
## George Washington University Rotaract Club

On March 29th, the GWU Rotaract Club held a bake sale to raise funds for End Polio Now!



On March 24th, the GWU Club held an information session for all those interested in running for an e-board position in the 2024-2025 RY. Service Above Self !

## Howard University Rotaract Club



On Saturday, March 23rd, the Rotaract Club of Howard University held a Food for Thought Service Event at Christ House. All smiles and love at Christ House!



On Saturday, April 13th, they also hosted a Paint and Chat at Christ House. Thank you for your Service Above Self !

## Rotary Citation Name Change

The name of the Rotary Citation is changing to the Club Excellence Award. While the name is changing, the award's purpose and requirements will remain the same. This award recognizes Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs that successfully achieve goals that are aligned with Rotary's action plan. The RI Board approved this change to better convey the award's purpose as a recognition of club excellence. This change will take effect on 1 July 2024.

If you have any questions, write to our Awards staff at [riawards@rotary.org](mailto:riawards@rotary.org).

## Key expense request update!

Beginning on July 1, 2024, the district is implementing an update to the Expense Request process. **All Expense Requests must be submitted within 30 days after the expense is incurred.** The district will also reimburse expenses within 30 days. Please ensure expense and reimbursement requests are submitted as promptly as possible.

PS - you can find the Expense Request form under the "Learning Resources" section of [rotary7620.org](http://rotary7620.org)



### 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  
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION  
TO **CREATE** LASTING  
**CHANGE** ACROSS THE GLOBE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES