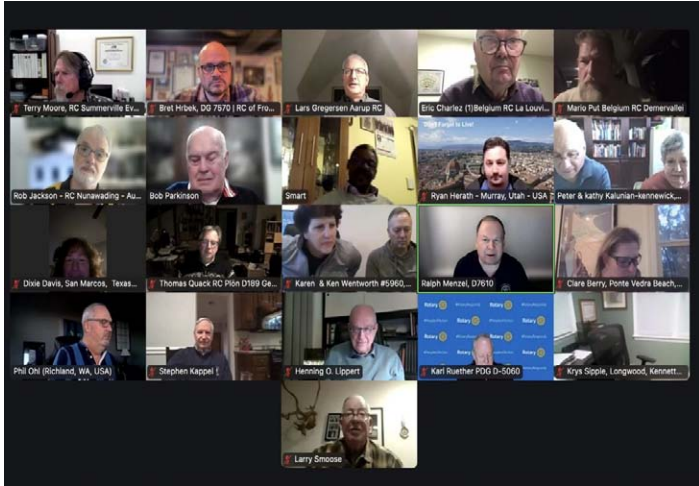


Rotary

District 7570



Fellowship, Fun and the Fine Art of Burning Off Beer Calories



It's June already? That means two things: summer is almost here, and my year as District Governor is wrapping up. It's been an honor — and a blast — to serve. Traveling across Virginia and Tennessee, I've met some incredible Rotarians doing amazing things. You've proven that the Magic of Rotary isn't just a slogan — it's the real deal.

June is also [Rotary Fellowship Month](#) — and what better time to celebrate the joy of connection? Summer is made for fellowship. Grilling out. Swapping stories. Laughing until your sides hurt. Catching lightning bugs in a jar... and waking up disappointed because you forgot to poke holes in the aluminum foil. Maybe even getting sunburned while pretending you're a cornhole champion.

But Rotary Fellowships go beyond your backyard BBQ. These international groups connect Rotarians around shared passions — from motorcycling and scuba diving to chess, jazz, birdwatching, beer and yes... even yodeling. (Seriously. Google it.)

Personally, I've found my people in the whiskey and beer fellowships. On Robert Burns Day, the Whiskey Fellowship gathered on Zoom to toast Scotland's national poet. We shared our favorite drams of *aqua vitae* and quoted the bard himself: "*Freedom and whisky gang thegither.*" (That's "go together" in Scots. And yes, *aqua vitae* means "water of life" in Latin. Had to flex a little.)

Later this month, I'll reunite with the BREW Fellowship at the Rotary International Convention in Calgary. Our motto? "*Bringing clean water to those who thirst.*" Because you can't

District Leadership



[Bret W. Hrbek](#)
District Governor



[Andrew P. Vanhook](#)
DG-Elect



[Charlotte G. Whitted](#)
DG-Nominee



[Paula K. Alston](#)
iPDG



[Nina D. Thornton](#)
Administrative Assistant Governor



[Timothy Carter](#)
District Rotary Foundation Chair (DRFC)



[Richard M. Novak](#)
District Membership Chair (DMC)



[Cora A. Gnegy](#)
District Public Image/PR Chair (DPIC)

Mark Your Calendars!

March 31st

[A Tribute to Heroes 2025 Flag Purchases](#)

March 31st

[A Tribute to Heroes 2025 Sponsorships](#)

April 21st

[DG Bret Club Visit Schedule](#)

June 7th

[District 7570 Council of Governors Meeting](#)

brew good beer without clean water — and we're Rotarians, so even our drinking clubs come with a service project.

And now that my ACL has finally healed, I'm lacing up to join the Running Fellowship. Mostly because I need to outrun all the calories I've "fellowshipped" into my life.

So here's your challenge:

Explore over 100 Rotary Fellowships at <https://www.rotary.org/en/>

our-programs/more-fellowships. There's something for everyone — including you.

Whether it's cycling, photography, gourmet cooking or just wanting to talk about trains with someone who won't roll their eyes — Rotary Fellowships are your passport to global friendships.

And who knows? Maybe the first step toward peace isn't a summit or a treaty. Maybe it's a smile, a handshake and a clink of glasses between new friends who've discovered they share a passion for service — and sour ales.

BRET W. HRBEK

2024-2025 District Governor

Lexington Sunrise Rotary Club Receives Global Grant

By Woody A. Sadler Jr.



The [Lexington Sunrise Rotary Club](#) has received a grant for \$72,000 to deliver special pediatric wheelchairs in Ecuador. The project is the collaboration of The Rotary Foundation, District 7570, District 7610 (Northern Virginia), Rotary District 7670 (western North Carolina), and The Wheelchair Foundation. There is an estimate that there is a need for 100

million wheelchairs in the world. Latin America is one of the most neediest areas. These wheelchairs will go to children who have neurological disorders coming from birth defects, exposure to toxic substances, or a number of causes. Locals believe that pesticides sprayed on the fields years ago are responsible for the high number of birth defects.

In August, a team of twenty Rotarians will fly to Ecuador to help local Rotarians and qualified medical personnel fit each recipient with his or her wheelchair. The wheelchairs come in three sizes and are equipped with special padding and straps for the safety and comfort of the patient. Local Rotarians and social services personnel will identify the individuals needing a

June 7th

2025-26 District and Area Governor Installation

June 9th

Rotary Club of Blacksburg Golf Outing

June 12th

CTT Session: Club Treasurers Training

June 14th

LFK District Grant Workday at playground 9AM to 12 noon

June 14th

Clean Up Happy Creek along Green Way

June 27th

Rotary Club of Tazewell Golf Tournament

June 27th

Lexington Sunrise Summer Social

July 17th

Sip and Paint

August 9th

Community Yard Sale

August 23rd

Field of Honor FLAG ASSEMBLY

September 3rd

FOH Field Prep/Marking/Deliveries

September 5th

INSTALL Field of Honor

September 6th

Field of Honor Sept 6-18

September 6th

Field of Honor Individual Flags

September 6th

Field of Honor Patriots BBQ

September 19th

FOH - Flag Pickup

September 20th

FOH Field CleanUp

Submit Your Rotary History

By Paula K. Alston

Help us preserve the written story of District 7570 club history. D7570 is fortunate to have a storage room at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center in Blacksburg to house our records and memorabilia. In addition, the district will save any electronic resources provided by clubs for future reference.

This is a good time for the outgoing club presidents to complete a Club History form to record highlights from the previous Rotary year. It's also a good resource for past presidents to complete for their year as president. Please take a moment to review this form and complete one for as many Rotary years as possible. Forms may be emailed to DG Paula Alston (paulakalston@gmail.com), who will save them in the history archives room. Form link: [Click](#)

wheelchair and provide training to the individual and/or their caregivers on the operation and maintenance of the wheelchairs. Periodic visits over the next year to the patients by social services staff will ensure that the wheelchairs are still needed. They will evaluate the impact the wheelchairs are having on the individuals and their caregivers.

If you would like to help the Rotarians with this project, please contact Woody Sadler at sadlerwa@vmi.edu

Johnson City Noon “Rotary Readers” Program Honored for Successful First Year

By Mary Ellen Miller

Members of the [Johnson City Noon Rotary Club](#) were honored at an end-of-school student assembly for their role in the “Rotary Readers” program at Mountain View Elementary School. Thanks to the help of a district grant, several members of the [Johnson City Noon Club](#) embraced their role as Rotary Readers and read with the school’s kindergarteners on a weekly basis.

The grant enabled the club to purchase eight different books for the children who were able to take a book home each quarter. “A lot of kids do not have food at every meal, much less books, which would be considered a luxury,” said 2024-2025 President Raleigh Green. “Our goal was to increase reading and literacy so that all students are reading at the level they are supposed to be.”

“The district grant was for \$4,000 and we put up \$6,000,” said Green. “We have really developed a partnership with the school and with their teachers and principal. We look forward to continuing that relationship in the next school year.”

Principal Dr. Chelsea Lee said she and the teachers and students were extremely pleased with the Rotary Readers and are already looking forward to next year’s program. She said teachers see improvements in reading abilities when Rotarian volunteers work in the classroom with the students.

Johnson City Noon Rotary has an ongoing relationship with the Title I elementary school including providing Christmas gifts and Thanksgiving meals for families. The club also provides a check to the school to use as they see fit.

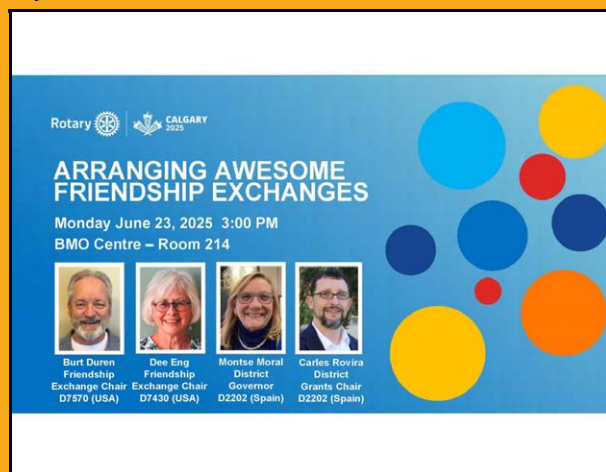
Rotary Readers

Left to Right: Johnson City Noon Rotarians Jeff Anderson, Joan Mitchell, Raleigh Green and Mary Ellen Miller display the trophy they received to honor

[here](#)

Friendship Exchange Session at RI Convention

By C. Burt Duren



Contribute to CART (Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust) before the end of June 2025

By Milton E. Carter

Contributing to [CART](#) (Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust) before the end of June 2025 is a meaningful way to support the global effort to understand, prevent, and ultimately cure this devastating disease. With more than 55 million people affected worldwide, Alzheimer’s places a significant burden on individuals, families, and healthcare systems. Donations in the coming weeks can accelerate groundbreaking studies, fund clinical trials, and help scientists develop earlier diagnostic tools and more effective treatments.

Contributions made now can have an immediate impact on funding allocations, ensuring that critical projects move forward without delay. Whether through financial support, participating in research studies, or raising awareness, every action taken before the end of June 2025 strengthens the fight against Alzheimer’s and brings hope to millions facing the disease.

The current club-giving leader board for District 7570 looks like this:

1. Chatham
2. Bristol VA-TN
3. New Market
4. Warren County



the club's Rotary Readers program at Mountain View Elementary School in Johnson City.

A Symbol of Peace in Clarke County

Recently, the [Rotary Club of Clarke County](#) proudly dedicated our community's first **Peace Pole**—a powerful symbol of unity and hope.



Beautifully painted by Johnson-Williams Middle School's Art Club and set in 200-year-old historic pavers, the pole bears the message *"May Peace Prevail on Earth"* in four languages.

Huge thanks to our dedicated members who made this project possible, and to **Rotary District Governor Bret Hrbek** for joining us on this special day.

Read more: [Winchester Star Article](#)

Warren County | Rotary Peace Poles

By Michael Sean Williams

As of, Thursday, 22 May, 2025, all five Warren County Public Elementary Schools have installed Peace Poles on their grounds. One of our two middle schools, and one of our two high schools have as well. The [Rotary Club of Warren County](#) is committed to installing a Peace Pole at our other high schools this coming fall. We are hoping that our founding club, The [Rotary Club of Front Royal](#), will cover the other middle schools, to round out all of our public schools.



5. Lexington Sunrise
6. Forest
7. Kingsport Downtown
8. Staunton
9. Johnson City Morning
10. Radford

Please let me know if you have questions or if your club is in need of a program on CART. My email is mecarter1954@gmail.com.

Rotary Club of Forest

By Mike Lewis



On May 5, State Delegate Tim Griffin (53rd District) presented the [Rotary Club of Forest](#) with a certificate of HR703, a resolution passed by the Virginia House of Delegates during the recent General Assembly session. The stated purpose of the resolution is to commend the Rotary Club of Forest for their annual Field of Honor project, the playground equipment that they have installed at the Forest Public Library, and the general efforts to promote the welfare of the community.

Frederick County | GOLF BALL DROP FUN!

By Frank Murphy



What a tee-rific time we had at this year's [Frederick County Rotary Club's](#) Golf Ball Drop fundraiser — it's officially in the books, and wow, did we have a blast! Huge thanks to the amazing Stephens City Fire Department for lifting our golf ball funnel high into the sky (talk about a hole-in-one from above!), Franklin's BBQ Food Truck for keeping us happily fed, and Shades of Gray for rocking the day with some great tunes!

AND, A really big shoutout to all our awesome sponsors who helped make the magic happen. From bounce houses (for kids and kids-at-heart), corn hole, and golf games to face painting and fabulous raffle prizes, there was something fun around every corner.

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for more photos!

Rotary Club of the Blue Ridge

By Anthony Francis Aluise



On May 7, the [Rotary Club of the Blue Ridge](#) performed a micro-project during their regular club meeting, a micro-project in honor of Mother's Day on May 11. In support of Huddle Up Moms in the Roanoke Valley, they wrapped packs of 25 diapers for distribution in their

Support Shop. In total, they wrapped 3,000 diapers over the course of an hour.

Huddle Up Moms (HUM) is a Roanoke-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering mothers across Southwest Virginia through education, connection, and support. They provide essential baby items, such as diapers, formula, and wipes, free of charge to over 125 families monthly via their Support Shop, and are working to establish the region's first certified diaper bank through Project H.U.D.D.L.E. Additionally, HUM offers various peer-led support groups, educational workshops, and operates The Haven on 5th, a collaborative space with Postpartum Support Virginia that serves as a hub for community resources and events.

Rockingham County's newest Peace Pole

By Charles Hendricks



The [Rotary Club of Rockingham County](#) installed a 3rd Peace Pole in Harrisonburg and has registered a total of 19 Peace Poles, many that existed prior to our club's efforts to plant additional Peace Poles in Rockingham

County and Harrisonburg City. This newest Peace Pole is located on the grounds of the Salvation Army Harrisonburg and along the Harrisonburg Northend Greenway. This Rotary Peace Pole features the languages English, Spanish, Arabic, French, Russian, Swahili, Tigrinyan, American Sign Language, a braille plaque, a rainbow flag, and a Veterans for Peace logo. Salvation Army Lieutenant Douglas Ingold, a new member of our club, sent the following message "Inspired by scripture, we are reminded of the angels' message of peace at Jesus' birth, Paul's call for us to live peaceably with all, and Christ's work to break down barriers and bring unity. As followers of Jesus, whose Gospel is one of peace, we affirm our mission to be peacemakers. May this pole inspire all who pass by to seek and share peace. May Peace Prevail on Earth."

The event was highlighted with words of dedication from the Rotary Club of Rockingham County President Emily Cohen, Harrisonburg Mayor Deanna Reed, and Lt. Douglas Ingold. Rotary Club member Charles Hendricks has led the efforts to register existing Peace Poles and add new Rotary Peace Poles through Rockingham County and Harrisonburg.
