

# Rotary

## District 7570



## April 23-26, 2026 Rotary District 7570 Conference

District Governor Andy Vanhook personally invites you all to join together as Rotarians at the 2026 Rotary District Conference.

You'll find the full schedule, registration, and hotel information on the Conference website | [Rotary District 7570 Conference](#)

## District 7570 Golf Tournament | April 23

Join us at Heritage Oaks Golf Course on Thursday April 23 of the District Conference for the inaugural D7570 Golf Tournament in the Shenandoah Valley!

11:30am Shotgun start, captain's choice format.

Register a team or sponsor here.  
<https://givebutter.com/D7570Golf>

Hosted by the [Rotary Club of New Market](#); this event highlights the needs of our community through the lens of the heroes on the front lines and 100% of the proceeds will go to these nonprofits:

- Polio Plus (Rotary 7570 Polioplus donation)
- Isaiah 117 House
- Central Valley Habitat for Humanity
- VAIL (Valley Associates for Independent Living)
- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

### Your District Leadership



[Andrew P. Vanhook](#)  
District Governor



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



[Amber Wilborne](#)  
DG-Nominee



[Bret W. Hrbek](#)  
iPDG



[Anna Clark Lester](#)  
Administrative Assistant Governor



[Lori W. Glascock](#)  
Area 1 Governor



[James B. Baisden](#)  
Area 2 Governor



[Lydia Heatwole](#)  
Area 3 Governor



[Diantha Gail McCauley](#)  
Area 4 Governor



[Traci Blido](#)  
Area 5 Governor



[John J Rainone](#)  
Area 6 Governor



[Inez J. Rodenburg](#)  
Area 7 Governor



## District 7570 Golf Tournament Sponsorships & Benefits

April 23, 2025 • At Heritage Oaks Golf Course



Be part of the inaugural Rotary District 7570 Golf Tournament, held in conjunction with our District Conference and designed to showcase community leadership through meaningful impact.

Proceeds will benefit Isaiah 117 House, Central Valley Habitat for Humanity, Valley Association for Independent Living (VAIL), Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, and Rotary's End Polio Now Initiative. Sponsorship offers a unique opportunity to gain visibility, build relationships, and make a lasting difference on and off the course.

## Honoring the Legacy of Our Rotarians



With nearly 3,000 Rotarians across our district, each member contributes in meaningful and lasting ways to their club, community, and to Rotary. When we lose a fellow Rotarian, we lose not only a member, but a servant leader, a mentor, and a friend.

To thoughtfully and equitably honor those who pass away, the district invites clubs to submit a brief tribute celebrating the Rotarian's life and service. Submitted tributes will be published in an upcoming district newsletter or in DACdb stories.

Tribute Guidelines:

- 150–300 words
- Include years of Rotary service and notable roles or contributions to Rotary
- One high-resolution photo (optional)
- Please submit within 30 days of the member's passing, if possible

By sharing these stories within a consistent format, we ensure that every Rotarian is honored with dignity while building a collective legacy of Service Above Self that can inspire others.

Tributes may be submitted to Tim Wilborne, District Public Image Chair at [tim@twcontrols.com](mailto:tim@twcontrols.com).

Photo by [Hakan Erenler](#)

## Fairmount Early Act



Carolyn C. Gordon  
Area 8 Governor



Mike Jones  
Area 9 Governor



Kelly McBride Delph  
Area 10 Governor



Heather A. Bunch  
Area 11 Governor



Susan J. Mole  
Area 12 Governor



Joseph A. Ley  
Area 13 Governor



Gary McAllister  
Area 14 Governor

## Clubs encouraged to participate in the EPIC Award



**Calling all Clubs! Get started on the EPIC Award.** The Excellence in Public Image Coordination Award recognizes clubs that complete simple, strategic monthly tasks to boost their visibility. These activities also strengthen your club's impact - supporting



The Fairmount Early Act children began their involvement this evening in the school board meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

They gave a student-led presentation that involved several videos and all the children contributing with their multiple parts in the presentation. They truly blessed my heart as they shared past projects and future projects they are planning. Rotary Service Above Self is on the move among elementary age children in Bristol.

There is a meeting planned to start an Early Act club in the Bristol, VA intermediate School this year as well. If you or your club would like to learn more about Early Act and how to sponsor and set up a club in your schools, please visit our website: <https://www.rotary7570.org/early-act/> or contact our District Youth Services & Early Act Chair Mr. Michael Williams.

## Area 12 Grant Project Update | Natural Disaster Emergency Preparedness and Response

By Thomas F. King



The Area 12 Rotary Clubs that include Bristol Noon, Bristol Morning, Abingdon and Washington County, VA, are involved in a District Collaborative Grant entitled

"Natural Disaster Emergency Preparedness and Response." Last Saturday (February 2026) we had Rotarians from the four clubs as well as members of the Bristol Fairmount Elementary School Early Act Club and other family members and friends gather at the Bristol Salvation Army warehouse to pack Qty. 100 5-gallon bucket emergency kits. Four separate rows of tables with all the items that went in the buckets were staged for the four Rotary clubs involved. As a result of all the people that came, the Qty. 100 buckets were packed with the complete list of everything in the buckets in a protective cover taped to the outside of each bucket with every item checked

membership growth, building partnerships, and promoting giving to The Rotary Foundation and other club initiatives. All Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Zones 33/34 are eligible. The first three tasks are now open and can be completed online. Check out the [EPIC Award page](#) on the Zone website to view the 2025-26 tasks and submit the online forms.

## Submit your club news for the Informer

YOU and YOUR CLUB are doing amazing work in your communities and beyond. Let us share all the good work through our District Newsletter, the *Informer*. Please consider emailing your press releases, write-up, or report with some photographs to [rotary7570publicimage@gmail.com](mailto:rotary7570publicimage@gmail.com).



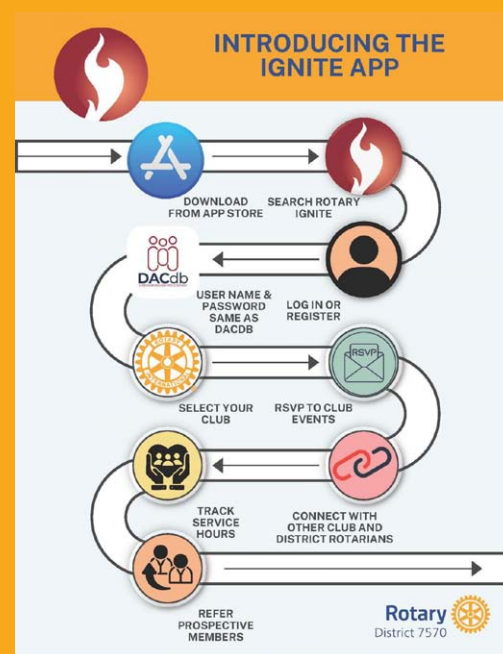
## Your District on YouTube

Did you know the District has a YouTube page? Be sure to Subscribe or Browse the uploaded videos.

There are great past interviews and lots of club resources provided!

<https://www.youtube.com/@RotaryDistrict7570/>

## Let's Light a Fire with Ignite! Your New Rotary Engagement App



off in one hour and 45 minutes. The buckets were placed on wooden pallets provided by the Salvation Army, shrink-wrapped and put in place in the warehouse space being provided by the Salvation Army. When our next regional disaster occurs, these pallets of emergency kits will be deployed by RC members to the affected area to arrive soon after the disaster takes place.

## Elizabethton Rotary Club celebrates 100 years!



The [Elizabethton Rotary Club](#) celebrated a historic milestone on Friday, February 27, 2026, with its Centennial Dinner Celebration marking 100 years of service. The evening, led

by Bill Anderson, honored a legacy that began with the club's original charter on February 6, 1926. District 7570 Governor [Andy Vanhook](#) and Governor-Elect Charlotte Whitted joined the celebration to recognize Paul Harris Fellows and perfect attendance milestones.

A special focus was placed on community impact, highlighting the work of Rhonda Chafin with the Second Harvest Food Bank, Danny Deal's coordination of Hurricane Helene relief, and the efforts of Serena Miller, Angie Odom, and Brandon Young in local ministries and compassion centers.



The event featured a display of the club's past presidents, starting with E.R. Lingerfelt in 1926, and showcased the District 7570 Centennial Clubs bell. This centennial gathering served as a powerful reminder of the club's enduring commitment to "Service Above Self" across Carter County and beyond.

We're always looking for ways to make Rotary more engaging, connected, and—dare I say it—even a little fun. That's why we're excited to introduce **Ignite**, a new app designed to help you stay informed, get involved and celebrate the impact we're making across our district.

Think of Ignite as your Rotary companion—right in your pocket.

### Why Use Ignite?

- **Track Your Engagement:** Whether you're attending meetings, volunteering or inviting a guest—Ignite helps you track your involvement and see your impact grow.
- **Connect Easily:** Get updates from your club, district events and leadership—without digging through your inbox.
- **Encouragement, Not Enforcement:** Ignite isn't about pressure—it's about participation. We want to celebrate what you're already doing and make it even easier to get involved.

### How to Get Started

#### 1. Download the App

- Search for "**Ignite Member**" in the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android)

#### 2. Log In

- Use the same email you use in DacDb
- If you need help logging in, just reach out—we'll get you set up.

#### 3. Start Exploring

### Mark Your Calendars!

March 5th

**D7570 Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS): 2026**

March 8th

**Staunton Tree Stewards planting @ YMCA Extension on New Hope Ro**

March 14th

**Roadside Litter Pick Up**

March 14th

**St. Paddy's on the Dan**

March 21st

**Highland Maple Festival**

March 25th

**Rotary on Tap: Pints for Pages**

## 'They're not alone': Rotary volunteers bring literacy support into classrooms

This story appeared in the [Northern Virginia Daily on 3/5/2026](#).

Photo credit to Rich



Cooley/NVDaily. Article written by Ryan Fitzmaurice.

Bill Grass pulled a chair up to a table barely two feet tall inside a first-grade classroom at W.W. Robinson Elementary School in Woodstock. Austin Shenk, age 7, sat across from Grass with a copy of "Frog and Toad Together," his finger hovering over each word as he read aloud.

In the story by author Arnold Lobel, Toad dreams he is on a grand stage. A booming voice announces him as the greatest toad in all the world. He plays piano, walks a high wire, dances. Each time he boasts to his friend Frog in the audience, Frog shrinks a little smaller.

"I wonder why the frog keeps getting smaller," Grass said to Austin. "I don't know. Let's turn the page and see."

Austin swung side to side in his seat, sounding out each syllable — "wearing," "theater," "presenting" — while Grass waited, corrected gently, waited again. When they neared the end of the story, the boy chose to keep going. Just five more pages.

Grass is one of 45 active volunteers in LEAP, a literacy tutoring initiative launched late last year through a partnership between Shenandoah County Public Schools and the county's four Rotary clubs. The program places trained community members in elementary classrooms to provide one-on-one and small-group reading practice under teacher direction. Volunteers are currently working in two of the county's three elementary schools — W.W. Robinson and Ashby-Lee Elementary in Quicksburg, with plans to expand to Sandy Hook Elementary.

The program's name stands for Literacy Excellence and Achievement Partnership. Its origin was simpler than the acronym.

"It came out of Rotary," said Randy Doyle, a Rotary member and LEAP volunteer who helped organize the initiative. A speaker at a Rotary meeting last year shared data on youth literacy and the need to get books into the hands of young children. "That really spawned a sense of, you know, something needs to happen."

In September, Doyle and other Rotary members organized a meeting of about 20 people including the schools

April 2nd  
[DG Visit @ Skyline Connections Rotary Club](#)

April 11th  
[District Legislative Assembly \(DLA\) via Zoom](#)

April 11th  
[Popcorn for Paws](#)

April 11th  
[Popcorn for Paws](#)

April 16th  
[Rotary on Tap: Pints for Parks](#)

April 18th  
[Century of Service Centennial Gala](#)

April 23rd  
[7570 District Conference 2026](#)

May 2nd  
[Lexington Road & River Relay](#)

May 2nd  
[Rotary Run for the Roses](#)



### Club Anniversaries

[Northern Shenandoah Valley](#)  
March 1st

[Lynchburg](#)  
March 1st

[Luray](#)  
March 4th

[Kingsport-Sunrise](#)  
March 10th

[Chatham](#)  
March 15th

[Marion-Morning](#)  
March 18th

[Rotaract - Roanoke College](#)  
March 31st

superintendent, school board members and Rotarians from every county club. They agreed to form a partnership. A 12-member leadership team followed, drawing from the school division, Rotary clubs, the Chamber of Commerce and the county library system.

The motivation sharpened when the school system shared its reading data.

"Something like 40% of the third graders in Shenandoah County read at the lowest level," Doyle said. "Those of us who don't live and breathe education were just — we knew that there was a problem. We just didn't know by the numbers how bad it was."

State data reflects the broader challenge. None of Shenandoah County's three elementary schools met Virginia's annual reading target of 81% on the Standards of Learning assessments for the 2024-2025 school year. W.W. Robinson posted a 60% reading pass rate, Ashby-Lee 58%. The gaps widen among specific student groups — at W.W. Robinson, just 42% of Hispanic students and 26% of students with disabilities passed the reading SOL.

The program moved fast. Volunteer recruitment began in November. Training and initial placements started in December, with volunteers entering classrooms before the end of the semester. By January, a division-wide orientation drew about 35 volunteers and school staff to the community center in Mount Jackson.

Monica Hinegardner, the school division's director of instruction, designed the program's instructional framework. Students are identified by classroom teachers using multiple data sources, including the Virginia Assessment of Literacy and Language Skills Screener. Volunteers do not introduce new content or diagnose learning needs. They reinforce skills students are already learning, listening to them read, supporting fluency, reinforcing phonics patterns, using materials the teacher provides.

"This is a school program," Doyle said. "This is not a Rotary program. This is a partnership between the two, but this really has the school system's fingerprint. They're the experts. We're not."

Approximately 250 students are currently being supported through the program's rotations. Of the 15 volunteers who have reported their hours by early February, representing a fraction of those participating, 66 hours of direct literacy support have been logged since December.

### **Inside the classroom**

Inside Ann Ross's first-grade classroom at W.W. Robinson, the volunteers are layering onto months of instruction. Ross said her students have shown significant growth on mid-year literacy screenings, with a large drop in the number reading at the high-risk level. Since the volunteers arrived, she has noticed something else.

The school runs an incentive system where students earn rewards and choose prizes from a box, ranging from erasers, small stuffed animals and toys. Before the program, Ross said, books weren't what her students reached for. That has

changed. Out of 19 students in her class, 13 recently spent their rewards on books.

"One thing is excitement. Two is the love and reading, and three is that they are growing," Ross said.

Ross said reading and writing have improved together. Her first-graders now keep writing their own stories in classroom notebooks. One boy, Oliver Due, read Grass a story he had written himself. In it, he built a house, then a ship made of bricks, with a secret passageway inside.

Grass, a retired registered nurse who spent his career on a neurotrauma unit, has been volunteering in reading programs for eight years, starting in Missouri. He joined LEAP when it launched.

"I was in a high-stress, fast-paced job," Grass said. "And I said, what can I do to recharge my batteries, to get that feeling back? What better way than 6- and 7-year-olds?"

He works with students one-on-one for seven to 10 minutes each, moving through about six students in an hour. On a recent morning, after Austin finished "Frog and Toad Together," a girl named Bella Barb sat down and picked "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss.

"This is fun," Grass said. "And she picked out my favorite book."

She read without stopping. Grass leaned back.

"Wow, I got tired just listening to you," he told her. "That was a mouthful, wasn't it? Take a deep breath and here we go again."

### **The larger purpose**

Doyle said the program's success so far is measured in growth — the number of volunteers, the number of teachers requesting help, the number of hours logged. He initially hoped for 10 volunteers by January. They had 42.

The leadership team is now planning to expand into Sandy Hook Elementary and eventually into upper elementary grades and math. Doyle said the partnership with the county library could extend the work into summer programming. He sees LEAP as a long-term effort, not a single school year.

But he returned to something more basic when asked about Rotary's larger role.

"I think Rotary's larger role is to tell the school system, to send a message to the school system, that they're not alone," Doyle said. "That the community is with them."

"So often, people blame the school system for our children's lack of progress," he said. "I hear stuff like, the reason our kids can't read is because teachers don't care. Well, that's the furthest thing from the truth."

Back at W.W. Robinson, Grass finished his last session of the morning. Ross told him she would see him tomorrow.

"Back tomorrow," Grass said. "Wouldn't miss it."

