



# Rotary District 7600



## Spirit of 7600



December 2025

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### District Leaders

Patricia A. Edwards  
District Governor

SuAnne Hardee Bryant  
District Governor Elect

Joy L. Kline  
iPDG

Camile L. Peter  
District Communications  
Officer/District Secretary

Deborah Altizer Wall  
District Rotary Foundation  
Chair

Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert  
Mental Health TF Chair

W. Hamilton Holloway II  
District Public Image Chair

David S. Rosenthal  
Lieutenant Governor

Charlette T. Woolridge, Ph.D.  
Lieutenant Governor

Allan L. Mink II  
International Services Chair

Thomas A. Arnold Sr.  
Assistant Governor

Nancy J. Carter  
Assistant Governor

William J. Crowder Jr.  
Assistant Governor

Jennifer L. Fraley

## District News

### Posts from Pat



Can you believe that we are almost halfway through our Rotary year? It seems like just yesterday we were kicking off a new year where we would all come together to Unite for Good to Find Our Starfish. I have heard and seen all the amazing things our clubs are doing while I have been making my club visits. You all should be extremely proud of the impact the Rotarians of D7600 are making on our neighbors, and people we will never meet. It is WICKED amazing! Thank you all for the strong work you are doing.

Please remember that December is **Disease Prevention and Treatment Month**. We have thirty-one days to make an impact for programs that help make a

difference in the health of many, many people. One of those diseases close to Kim and my heart is Alzheimer's. What a wonderful time to donate to CART – Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust – and help find a cure.

The District Conference was a huge success - an amazing weekend of fellowship, learning, and fun at the beach. I have heard so many positive comments about the food, the hotel, the breakout and general session speakers, and the location. We came together to support CART, EPN and the service project to provide food for the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center Hope for the Holidays food baskets. Thank you to all who attended the conference, and to the dedication of PDG's Judy Cocherell and Diane Hagemann to make it so successful!

Sadly, we said goodbye to two long time Rotarians during the conference weekend. On Friday night Caryle Gravely from the Oyster Point of Newport News Rotary Club passed away at his home. Saturday morning during our morning general session, Kevin Lyles, President of Warwick at City Center Newport News Rotary Club, unexpectedly passed. Please continue to keep their families and clubs in your thoughts.

As we enter the holiday season Kim and I wish all of you, and your families the happiest of holidays. Take time to celebrate and enjoy the season with those close to you. Cheers!

***In Memoriam: Rotarian Herbert Carlyle Gravely III  
(Rotary Club of Oyster Point)***

Assistant Governor  
 Penny Guiles  
 Assistant Governor  
 Richard W. Harman Jr.  
 Assistant Governor  
 Jeffry C. Hume  
 Assistant Governor  
 Carolyn Jacobs  
 Assistant Governor  
 Ross Loomis  
 Assistant Governor  
 Rickey B Maddux  
 Assistant Governor  
 William M. Mulvihill II  
 Assistant Governor  
 Charles Lee Owens  
 Assistant Governor  
 Thomas A Powell Jr.  
 Assistant Governor  
 Patrick A Tamakloe, Ph.D.  
 Assistant Governor  
 Deloris Jones Thomas  
 Assistant Governor  
 Margaretha A. Valderas  
 Assistant Governor  
 Arthur Lee Weisiger  
 Assistant Governor  
 Susan G. Zachensky-Walthall  
 Assistant Governor

*Amber Lempke*

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our longtime friend and fellow Rotarian, Herbert Carlyle "Carlyle" Gravely III. Carlyle was a devoted member of the Oyster Point Club, a past Club Treasurer, a faithful member of the Bequest Society, and a quiet but powerful force for good in our community.

Carlyle brought a lifetime of service and integrity to everything he touched. A 44-year career at Newport News Shipbuilding followed by an MBA from William & Mary, he lived out Rotary's values through his work in many organizations: from his home parish at St. George's Episcopal Church, to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula (helping expand their reach across Newport News), to the Mariners' Museum, various community service groups, and beyond.

He was the kind of Rotarian who preferred to serve quietly behind the scenes; he was the one ensuring programs stayed grounded, children were given hope, and community centers stayed open for those in need. The community center at St. George's, now named "Gravely Hall," stands as a living tribute to his faith, his servant-heartedness, and his commitment to providing safe spaces for families and service organizations.

Carlyle's impact was real and lasting, and his legacy reminds us that Rotary is more than a service club - it is a community bound by compassion, integrity, and faithful action. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, loved ones, and all who were touched by his service. May we honor his memory by continuing the work he believed in so deeply.

His obituary can be found at <https://weymouthfuneralhome.com/obituaries/herbert-carlyle-gravely-iii/>



***In Memoriam: Honoring a Legacy of Service: Remembering Kevin Lyles (Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center)***

*Amber Lempke*

On November 8, 2025, the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center lost a beloved leader, mentor, and friend - Kevin Lyles, whose life embodied the Rotary motto "Service Above Self." His passing leaves a profound void in our community, but his legacy continues to inspire.

Kevin served as past President of the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center two times prior to serving in his 3<sup>rd</sup> term at the time of his passing. Kevin Lyles was a founding member of the Rotary Club of City Center, where he helped establish a vibrant culture of service and fellowship. His leadership and vision continued to shape the club even after its merger with the Warwick Rotary Club, strengthening its impact across Newport News. He led with unwavering dedication, bringing warmth, vision, and a deep commitment to service. Whether leading club

initiatives, mentoring new members, or championing local causes, Kevin approached every task with humility and heart. His leadership was marked not just by action, but by connection...he made everyone feel seen, valued, and empowered.

Under Kevin's guidance, the club expanded its outreach, strengthened partnerships, and deepened its impact across Newport News. He was known as the "idea guy" and suggested big ideas that others took and ran with, including the club's infamous Bacon Bash, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. The Bacon Bash has raised over \$260,000 for local charities and non-profits supported by the WWCC Rotary Club. He also initiated several beloved club traditions, including Change for Change and the President's Pig—a program where each incoming club president received a personalized piggy bank decorated to reflect their life and character. These traditions embodied Kevin's belief that small acts of generosity could lead to meaningful impact.

Beyond Rotary, Kevin was a pillar of the community in his professional life. Kevin Lyles served as Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of the Virginia Peninsula from 2018 to 2020, where he led initiatives focused on improving education, financial stability, and health outcomes across the region. His leadership was marked by a deep commitment to

collaboration and measurable community change. Following his time at United Way, Kevin joined LifeNet Health as a Community Education Coordinator, where he played a vital role in raising awareness about organ and tissue donation. Through outreach events and partnerships with faith and civic leaders, Kevin helped dispel myths, foster dialogue, and promote the life-saving impact of donation across Hampton Roads. Kevin was a proud Christopher Newport University alumnus, recently honored with the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award. He exemplified the CNU challenge to *Live a Life of Significance*, and his contributions to education, service, and community leadership reflected that ideal.

As we remember Kevin, we also recommit to the values he held dear: integrity, compassion, and service. His legacy lives on in every project we undertake, every life we touch, and every moment we choose to lead with kindness.

Kevin Lyles may no longer walk among us, but his spirit continues to guide the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center, and the community he loved so well.

*Pictured L-R: Jim Probsdorfer, Ella Abney, Holly Kidd, Davetta Rinehart and Kevin Lyles at the District Awards Ceremony last July.*

### ***District Conference***

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so if you weren't able to attend the District Conference (or even if you were), check out the great photos [here!](#) Thanks to Bill Billings **from the Rotary Club of Franklin** for helping preserve such great memories.

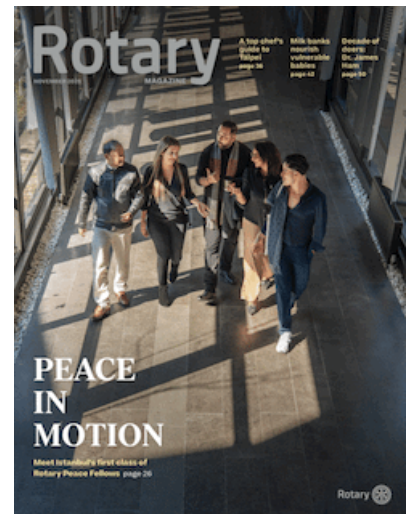


### ***Peacebuilding Conference*** ***David Rosenthal***

It's not too early to mark your calendars for The Art of Peacebuilding, to be held on February 7, 2026. More to come but click [here](#) for preliminary information.

### ***Membership*** ***Rich Salon***

Did you know that District 7600's successful membership efforts made national (and international) news! Check out the November 2025 issue of the Rotary Magazine for the whole story; here's the [link](#), or check page 20 of your print copy. Congratulations!!



### ***Ring the Bells for Hope and Joy!*** ***Janice Henicheck***

The Red Kettle Campaign 2025...The trophy and all the fun belong to your Club this year! Sign up your club at your local Salvation Army headquarters. Choose your date and time. A wonderful way to introduce children to volunteering and /or a new prospect.



**Rotary Alumni Association**  
Janice Henicheck

The Alumni News from the 2025 Conference:

The Alumni Association hosted a panel consisting of Stephen Beer, PDG, The Rotary Club of Innsbrook; Raghavan Sadagopan, The Rotary Club of Innsbrook and Hamilton Holloway, The Rotary Club of West Richmond. The topic was "What Constitutes a Good International Project?" The moderator was Mike Little, The Rotary Club of Richmond. The Alumni Association hopes to offer continued education from Rotarians who are Alumni and have experienced the actual mechanics of putting together a foundation project. Pictured L-R: Janice Henicheck, Alumni President; Mike Little; Raghavan Sadagopan; Stephen Beer; Hamilton Holloway



**Congratulations to the Class of 2025!**

The Alumni Class of 2025 includes Rotarians and community members. Chuck Barnett, Assistant Rotary Regional Foundation coordinator for Zone 30, inducted the new alumni. Many attended the event, including Pat Edwards, DG, new Alumni, past Alumni Presidents and advisors Adeeb Hamzey, Judy Cochrell PDG, Jim Probsdorfer ("Probs"), along with guests and friends.

Pictured: Janice G. Henicheck, Alumni President; Meghan Thomas, sponsored by The Rotary Club of Colonial Heights; Patti Kay Wagner, sponsored by TRC of Farmville; Pat Edwards, DG, sponsored by TRC of Town Center Va Beach; Celeste Bundy, sponsored by TRC of Goochland; Sarah Shakales, sponsored by Stephen Beer, TRC of Innsbrook; Tim Amos, sponsored by Janice G. Henicheck, TRC of Hanover; Chuck Barnett, RI representative; Adeeb Hamzey, Alumni Association Advisor. (Not pictured Debbie Wall, sponsored by Janice G. Henicheck, TRC of Hanover)

**Rotary Leadership Institute**  
Linda Sussman

Have you attended RLI? Are you amazed and impressed by the



Mid Atlantic RLI

PA • MD • DE • DC • WV • TN • VA • NC • SC

facilitators? These facilitators are often past or present district leaders and are certified by RLI to guide the sessions effectively. They use interactive methods like group discussions, not lectures, to help participants develop their leadership skills and gain a deeper understanding of Rotary. Click [here](#) to read Pat Sheikh's story of becoming a facilitator.

Information about the Mid-Atlantic RLI and upcoming training dates are available [here](#).



**Taipei 2026!**

Over 30,000 Rotarians from around the world will be attending the Rotary International Convention in Taipei from June 13-17, 2026. Districts are

organizing travel groups, roommates are being lined up, and pre/post trips are starting to take shape. You don't want to be the one left out. All the details are [here](#).

**Register before 15 December 2025 and save** to avoid the \$100 rate increase that takes effect **December 16th**. [Click here to register for the Convention](#). See you in Taipei!

### Club News



**Chesapeake**  
*Amber Vegas*

Ladies - The Chesapeake Rotary Club is thrilled to announce our inaugural Galentine's Gala. This signature event celebrating women, friendship, and community will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the Chesapeake Conference Center, and will welcome over 200 women from across Hampton Roads for an elegant night of fun, networking, and philanthropy.

We have planned a wonderful sit down dinner, amazing entertainment, a silent auction, dancing, photo booths, raffles, awards and more. A portion of the proceeds will go to women centric causes in Hampton Roads as well as back into Rotary to make a bigger impact on the community. Visit our website at [www.galentines-hr.com](http://www.galentines-hr.com) for more information on scholarships, tickets and donations for silent auction.

**Goochland**  
*Vassanthi Griffis*

Founded in 1961 during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the Goochland Recreational Center (GRC) was established as a safe gathering place for African American families in the heart of Goochland County. Spread across 23 acres, this property has long served as a symbol of community, unity, and resilience. Over the years, it has hosted countless family celebrations, baptisms in the pond, community events, softball tournaments, and even weddings—deeply rooting it in the memories of generations of residents.



As the Center's 65th anniversary approaches in April 2026, the members of the Goochland Recreational Center committed themselves to restoring and preserving the property, even though it required significant improvements.

As specific needs were identified and plans grew to restore the property—from its main building to the softball field and concession stand (both of which had been out of service for

nearly 20 years)—word of this effort reached other members of the community. Stepping up to the plate to renovate the concession stand and the softball field were the Rotary Club of Goochland and Goochland County Parks & Recreation, respectively. County employees are provided one day each year to volunteer within the community. Using that policy, a dedicated team of people from Parks & Recreation decided to combine their volunteer hours to recreate a high quality softball field where the old overgrown one was.

The Rotary Club of Goochland also saw an opportunity—the renovation of the concession stand. With the proceeds from a District Grant, our work included removing and replacing the roof, cleaning and painting the interior and exterior walls and floor, installing a ceiling with fans, replacing doors, and purchasing new appliances. Rotarians not only used money from the District Grant, but also provided 90% of the labor. Along the way, as the concession stand work progressed, more members of the community learned what was happening, resulting in donations of equipment, appliances, and financial contributions to support the renovation of other facilities on the property. All the effort toward the softball field and concession had a goal of being completed by the grand reopening of the Recreational Center.

On Saturday, November 1st, that dream came to life. The concession stand opened its doors, fully operational, for the first time in two decades, as the Center celebrated with a softball game between the Goochland County Administration and Goochland County Public Schools teams.

*Pictured L-R: Phil Gaeser, Rich Salon, Wayne Dementi, Laura Salon, Ryan Leabough (President of Goochland Recreational Center), Bob Beskin, Bill Souders, Don Koonce (Goochland Habitat for Humanity), Peter Poulos, Vern Fleming (Goochland Rotarian and Board of Member of GRC)*



**Huguenot Trail**  
Steve Anderson

Members and friends of the Huguenot Trail Rotary Club decorated 30 backpacks to be included in gift boxes delivered by Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child to children in need around the world. Each box is packed with quality toys, school supplies and personal care items. The club packed and donated 14 such boxes.

Cadets from the James River High School NJROTC stepped up and helped members of the Huguenot Trail Rotary Club erect the Veterans & Athletes

United's mobile Fallen Heroes Memorial at Providence Golf Course for the club's 3rd annual golf tournament. The memorial is an American flag made with the dog tags of those who have given their all since the start of the War on Terror. The club donated over \$10,000 to VAU from proceeds of the tournament. The cadets were awarded VAU Challenge Coins for their service.

### **Innsbrook** Beth Jorgensen

On November 1, the Rotary Club of Innsbrook hosted a vibrant Diwali Gala, bringing together Rotarians, Satellite Club members, Interactors, family, and friends for an evening that beautifully showcased Rotary's international spirit — where all cultures are welcomed, respected, and celebrated.

The event was led by the Rotary Satellite Club of Innsbrook Community, whose members worked tirelessly to bring the festival's colors, flavors, and traditions to life. Guests were treated to a cultural showcase featuring music, dance, and performances by both adults and children, each sharing stories and traditions from India's Festival of Lights — a holiday that symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.



Attendees had the opportunity to experience henna — a centuries-old form of body art made from a natural plant dye that leaves behind intricate, temporary designs symbolizing joy and beauty. The celebration also featured a sumptuous buffet of authentic Indian cuisine, offering guests a taste of diverse regional delicacies prepared with traditional spices and flavors.

Beyond the festivities, the Diwali Gala served as a meaningful reminder of Rotary's global reach and inclusive values. As an international organization with members in over 200 countries, Rotary embraces cultural diversity as a strength — building understanding and unity through service, fellowship, and shared experiences. For many attendees, the evening was more than just a celebration of Diwali — it was a reflection of Rotary's vision of "creating hope in the world" by connecting people of all backgrounds through friendship and service.



On September 25, the Rotary Club of Innsbrook came together for a special evening of wine education at The Wine Whisperer in Short Pump. The event blended learning and discovery, creating an enriching and enjoyable experience.

The tasting began with New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, bright and refreshing, with grapefruit aromas to awaken the palate. From there, host Kathryn Diebler introduced participants to the Wine Aroma Wheel—a practical tool for helping wine enthusiasts describe the many flavors and aromas they encounter. The group then explored a crisp Chardonnay, a classic white wine, followed by a traditional

Gewürztraminer known for its signature lychee fruit aroma. The tasting concluded with a Cabernet Sauvignon, an example of how tannins create the structure often associated with red wines.

Throughout the evening, participants also picked up fascinating wine facts that added depth to the experience: for example, Shiraz and Syrah come from the same grape variety, though the name varies by region—Shiraz in Australia and Syrah in France. More than just a tasting, the evening was about learning something new, enjoying the company of fellow Rotarians, and celebrating the joy of shared experiences.

The Rotary Club of Innsbrook extends thanks to Kathryn Diebler for hosting. Her expertise and enthusiasm made the evening truly memorable.

*Pictured: Gerard Shia, Teresa & Scott Dixon, Stokes & Susan Grimes, Retha & Jose Valderes, Ellen & Bob Mahoney, Kathryn Deibler, John Alford*

Innsbrook Rotary members marry! Past President Joe Elia married Riley Henry (Satellite Club member) in Italy on September 20. The happy couple honeymooned in Turkey! Congrats Joe & Riley!



**James City County**  
*Paul Miyamasu*

James City County Rotary Club members made their annual dictionary distribution to all Williamsburg-James City County and Walsingham Academy third-graders.

*Pictured: Rotarians at Matoaka Elementary School: Jerry Fields, District 7600 Assistant Governor Nancy Carter, Vanessa Cannon, President-elect Liz Weaver and Matoaka School Literacy Interventionist Lindsay Lord.*



The James City County Rotary Club, in recognition of Veterans Day, installed U.S. Flags in the Veterans Park in Williamsburg, VA. Pictured: Liz and Kurt Weaver, Jack Clark, Gail Saunders, Ryan Miedema, club president Nancy Geddes, Gary Chenault, Flag Chair Roger Saunders, Paul Miyamasu.



**Midlothian**  
Andrew Landrum



Our Midlothian Rotary family is heartbroken by the tragic loss of Jack Saunders, the son of our fellow member and friend, Dave Saunders. Jack touched countless lives with his warmth, loyalty, and bright spirit. He was the kind of young man who made every room lighter and every friendship stronger. We stand with Dave, Sue, Hattie, and the entire Saunders family during this unimaginable time. We join many others in honoring Jack's legacy through the Jack Saunders Memorial Scholarship, which will help future students pursue the passions Jack held dear. Those who feel moved to contribute may do so at <https://madisonmain.com/jacksaundersdonate> or by sending donations to 101 E. Cary St., Richmond, VA. Midlothian Rotary extends its deepest love and sympathy to the Saunders family, and we are grateful for the opportunity to help carry Jack's light forward.

November was a meaningful and active month for the club. Members collected money for refreshments for Jack's memorial service. Since those funds were not needed, the amount was contributed to the scholarship and helped push it beyond \$23,000. The club also completed a rescheduled service project with RAMPS RVA, supporting mobility access for local residents, and welcomed Dawn Cherry of In My Corner, Inc., who shared insights on youth mental health and

mentoring programs in our region. Tech 4 Troops' Jimmy Comer visited as well, collecting donated laptops, tablets, and other devices to support veterans and their families.



In December, the club will turn toward seasonal community partnerships and service-minded programming. On December 2, Midlothian Rotary will host Carol Ricker of the Chesterfield Christmas Mother, a long-standing initiative providing gifts, clothing, and support to families during the holidays. On December 9, Brittany Averette of the Sylvia Sisters will join the club to discuss their work empowering women and youth through mentorship, community engagement, and targeted support initiatives.

**Newport News**  
*Deloris Thomas*



Newport News NexGen Rotary Satellite Club gathered for fellowship, planning, and inspiration. A special highlight was hearing from Alicia Spencer, who shared her unique perspective as both a school principal and a dedicated Rotarian. Her story reminded us how service and leadership extend beyond the classroom and into the community, and we're grateful for the wisdom she shared with our group. We are off to a great start.

Members of the Newport News Club and the NexGen Companion Club service project for October was very successful. Time was spent stocking shelves, cleaning the garden, packing groceries for customers and of course we had "fun!"



**North Suffolk**

*Bob Thompson*

On October 29, the North Suffolk Rotary Club hosted its annual Oyster Roast. Despite the cool autumn temperatures, wind and rain, everyone had a fantastic



time at our club's largest fundraiser of the year. The plentiful oysters, delicious barbeque, and refreshments helped make a day filled with fun and camaraderie. This event gets better every year! Thanks to all our contributors, sponsors, and volunteers!

**Oyster Point**  
*Lindsey Watson*

Rotary Club of Oyster Point is excited to announce four Rotary Fundraiser Bike Nights with Coastal this December:

- Tuesday, December 2nd, 5-8PM, Coastal Fermentory (Uptown), 12515 Jefferson Ave, #600.
- Thursday, December 4th, 6:00PMish, Village Bicycles, 9913 Warwick Blvd.
- Monday, December 8th, 6:00PMish, Village Bicycles
- Wednesday, December 10th, 5-8PM, Coastal Fermentory (Downtown), 206 23rd Street



Join us for building bikes that will be donated to local organizations like Tidewater Friends of Foster Care this holiday season, as well as some good holiday cheer and camaraderie. A portion of Coastal Fermentory sales that evening will go towards purchasing the bikes. Coastal has asked us to help bring the Rotary spirit by:

- Providing literature about our project,
- Ensuring two Rotarians are present at all times,
- Having members ready to lend a hand with bussing tables or carrying food if needed,
- And of course... bringing the bikes!

These events are a great way to raise funds, show off our Rotary presence, and engage with the community in a fun, high-energy setting. Whether you're bringing a bike, volunteering for a shift, or stopping by to support, your involvement helps showcase who we are as people of action. Let's show Coastal and our community what Oyster Point Rotary can do!

**Richmond**  
*Michela Worthington*



On October 4, 2025 The Rotary Club of Richmond and Bucks 4 Boobs joined forces to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer with a 2 mile walk around Deep Run Park in Henrico. We raised over \$1000 for the cause.

Hammer & Ales - Members of THE Rotary Club of Richmond joined the greater Richmond community to support the Richmond ToolBank and build park benches!



The Rotary Club of Richmond was



honored to present a resolution to commend the life and service of Steve Richardson, Jr., a long-time advocate, leader and member, who embodied "Service over Self" in all respects. Thank you to friends and family who joined us for the presentation! Click [here](#) for the full resolution.

*Pictured: Mike Richardson, Karen Richardson, Linda Richardson, Linda Richardson, Stephanie Richardson and President William Cabell III*

**South Hill**  
*Lisa Clary*

The South Hill Rotary Club collected Toys for Toys again this year for the Marine Corp League Detachment 1085, as well as stuffed animals for Gleaning for the World. We also collected candy for the local Candy Cruise event. We have been doing these projects for many years and are proud to support the community efforts as well as world projects.



**Warwick at City Center**  
*Amber Lempke*



On Veterans Day, the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center proudly hosted the 4th Annual Flags for Heroes Ceremony at Warwick High School—a moving tribute to the men and women who have served our nation with courage and honor, from everyday heroes to members of the military (past and present) to first responders to single mothers who show up every day to make life better for her children.

Surrounded by a field of American flags in front of Warwick High School, we gathered as a community to reflect, remember, and give thanks. We were grateful for the support of the ROTC unit as well as the choir who performed the national anthem. We were honored to hear from an inspiring lineup of guest speakers: Mayor Phillip Jones, City of Newport News, President William Kelly, Christopher Newport University; President Dr. Michael Oshiki, Riverside

College of Health Careers; Principal Sharone Jones, Warwick High School. Each shared powerful words about leadership, legacy, and the enduring impact of service. A special flag was placed for President Kevin Lyles to honor his memory.

Pictured L-R: PE Michael Gleason and FFH Program Coordinator, Robin Nelhuebel

**West Richmond**  
Pam Bozkurt

West Richmond is delighted to have welcomed one new member in November! On 11/12/2025, we celebrated a new member induction! Richard Lundvall was officially welcomed as a new member of the West Richmond Rotary Club. Bringing new members into the club always adds fresh energy, perspectives, and ideas—and we are confident Richard will be a valuable addition to our Rotary community. Welcome to our club, Richard!

*Pictured (L-R): Membership Co-chair Berno Hamilton, Richard Lundvall, his sponsor John Boyer, and Club President Richard McNeil*



All Aboard for Fun! On September 25th, our West Richmond Rotary Club members set sail on a Riverboat Cruise for a fantastic club social event! The cruise was limited to the first 25 who registered (Note to self — next time, sign up fast!). But the fun didn't stop there! The celebration continued at Casa del Barco, where the rest of the crew joined in for delicious food, drinks, and plenty of laughter. It was a perfect evening of friendship, fellowship, and fun — Rotary style!

As we do every year, a group of our Rotarians volunteer at the Richmond Folk Festival. For the past several years our club has been assigned to pour and serve adult beverages!



On October 17, a group of West Richmond members volunteered at the

Henrico Christmas Mother (HCM) warehouse to sort and organize sweatshirts for this year's holiday distribution. The HCM volunteers who worked alongside us were thrilled with our teamwork, enthusiasm, and positive attitude! Thanks to everyone's efforts, the sweatshirts are now ready for distribution to recipient families in December. This marks the fourth year our club has proudly partnered with Henrico Christmas Mother to help bring warmth and joy to local families during the holiday season.



On Saturday, November 1st, a group of

West Richmond club members joined forces with Rotarians from neighboring clubs and volunteers from the Chesterfield Library to fill backpacks with essential items for unhoused individuals in our community. This effort was made possible through a District 7600 Grant in partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Chester, West Richmond, Bon Air, James River (Richmond), Midlothian, as well as the Chesterfield Public Library and the Friends of Chesterfield County Public Library. Service above self — together, we're making a difference one backpack at a time!



**Western Henrico**  
Robert Johnson



This includes an update on our **“Coat Drive Project”** as all coats and other winter wear items have now been delivered! A prior communication article was included in October/November including highlights of our Goochland Social Services delivery. Members of the Western Henrico Rotary have worked diligently over the past 4 months (May to August) to collect coats and other new and slightly worn winter items for those in need, as the fall and winter months approach. Led by Club member **Jerry Suyes**, our members collected the following:

343 Men's coats (many new)

- 293 Women's coats (many new)
- 350 Jackets
- 354 Sweaters, both men's and women's
- 44 scarfs
- 135 stocking hats (Mostly new)
- 106 pairs of gloves (Mostly new)
- **Totaling 1625 items collected!**

These items are being distributed to the following Social Services/ Charity Localities:

1. Hopewell Social Services (delivery 9-24, pic attached)

2. Caroline County Social Services (delivery week of 9-29, pic attached)

3. Middlesex County Social Services (delivery week of 10-6)

Specific recognition and thanks to Jerry for his leadership, enthusiasm and execution to manage and get this project to the finish line. Many needy family members will benefit from these collections/ donations!

*Pictured: Western Henrico Rotarians Jim Heck, Al Dorin, Jerry Suyes, Caroline County Social Services Director, Olivia Dillon, Bob Johnson and Jim Brooks*

The 130<sup>th</sup> edition of "The Game" was held in Ashland at Randolph-Macon College Saturday, November 15, the South's oldest continuing football rivalry. The Yellow Jackets prevailed for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with a score of 42-14 in a game which was never close! Randolph-Macon now leads the series with 59 wins, Hampden-Sydney has 58 wins, and there have been 11 ties.

Our club is competitively fortunate to have both colleges represented, both very vocal and spirited about their respective undergrad matriculations. At Tuesday's breakfast meeting, members from both sides gathered for a celebratory pic, with high hopes for the Tigers returning to their traditional winning spirit in 2026 and beyond.

*Pictured L to R: Jerry Suyes (RMC-1960), Bob Johnson (HSC-1978 and forced to wear RMC hat), Heather Turbynr-Pollard (RMC- 1998), Bard Kirkpatrick (HSC- 1982) and Rodney Burton (RMC- 1975)*



### **Williamsburg**

*Terry Lovvorn*

The Frank Ferrante Memorial Service Award was established to honor the memory and legacy of Frank Ferrante, a cherished member of the Rotary Club of Williamsburg. Frank was a person of remarkable character and unwavering dedication to the Rotary Club and its mission throughout his nearly 20 year club membership. Noteworthy examples include his early work in aligning our Club's long continued support to the Salvation Army and the organization and creation of the Medical Grant to Kigali, Rwanda. His dogged determination to improve both his local community and the international community was evident in every initiative he embraced. A generous

contributor, Frank gave not only his time and effort through volunteer labor but also supported numerous initiatives with his monetary donations. His passion for service and his commitment to making a difference have left an indelible mark on all who knew him. Frank's unselfish commitment to his community, his Rotary Club, and our Nation represent the highest ideals of Patriotic Citizenry.

To be considered for the Frank Ferrante Memorial Service Award, nominees must embody the following attributes and qualities that Frank exemplified:

1. Dedication to Rotary Club Values: Demonstrate a deep love and commitment to the Rotary Club and its mission.
2. Community and International Impact: Shows a dogged determination to make a positive impact on both the local and international communities.
3. Generosity: Contributes generously, both in terms of volunteer labor and monetary donations to Rotary International & the Williamsburg Rotary Foundation to support Rotary initiatives.
4. Consistent Supporter: Is a consistent supporter of Rotary Community Activities, participating actively and regularly.
5. Willingness to Help: Willingly supports all efforts and initiatives without complaint, showing a positive and cooperative attitude to include willingness to accept officer and committee assignments needed to manage the Club.

6. Role Model: Sets a positive example for others to follow by inspiring fellow members. This award serves as a tribute to Frank's enduring legacy, memory, and as an inspiration for all Rotary Club members to continue striving for excellence in service and community involvement.

The 2nd annual Frank Ferrante Annual Memorial Service Award was presented to Rotarian Terry Lovvorn for the following:

1. Salvation Army Red Kettle Support Coordinator year after year
2. Tireless work in building and managing the Williamsburg Club Website
3. Coordinator for scheduling of our club bi-monthly meetings/meals/RVSP'S (Thankless Job!)
4. Tracking our Club's activities on DACdb
5. Serves as Club Liaison to Rotary District 7600
6. Finally, she is normally working for Rotary while we are all sleeping

*Pictured: President-Elect Fraser Hudgins, Terry Lovvorn*

The Rotary Club of Williamsburg supports the growth and advancement of our young citizens through the annual awarding of college/university scholarships. The awards are given each spring to deserving candidates demonstrating scholastic achievement and accomplishments in non-academic activities.

*Pictured: Scholarship Winners Hannah Markle and Evan Highland with their parents, Jeremy & Heather Markle and Heston & Felicia Highland.*



## Foundation News



### **The Rotary Foundation Banquet** *Joy Kline*

What a wonderful evening we shared on November 13 to celebrate the successes of last year. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Our keynote speaker, Rotary Foundation Trustee Vicki Puliz, delivered an inspiring presentation that reminded us how our continued commitment to the Foundation will shape the impact we make in the years ahead. Let's always remember why we are Rotarians and

the importance of planting trees whose shade we may never be under.

A special thank-you to Neva Lynde from the Rotary Club of James City Satellite for hosting Trustee Vicki and arranging a delightful visit to one of our District Grant projects at Dream Catchers Equine Therapy. We also enjoyed a meaningful visit to Colonial Williamsburg with our guide, Tab Broyles, Director of Teacher Development at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and spouse of Bob Tassone from the Rotary Club of The Historic Triangle and Immediate Past Assistant Governor.

I would also be remiss if I didn't once again recognize our Past District Rotary Foundation Chair, John Padgett, for his three years of dedicated leadership.

Below is the link to the wonderful photos captured by Bill Billings from the Rotary Club of Franklin. Thank you, Bill, for helping preserve such great memories.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4cFS3pYurosWEcLB6>

**James R. Pierce Foundation  
Leadership 2025 Award Winner:  
Michael T. Harrison (Williamsburg)**  
*John Padgett*

The James Russell Pierce Foundation Leadership Award was created by Rotary District 7600 in honor of Past District Governor and Past District Rotary Foundation Chair James "Jim"



**James R. Pierce  
Foundation Leadership  
2025 Award Winner**

**Michael T. Harrison  
Williamsburg**



Pierce. The award celebrates leadership that not only elevates giving and stewardship but also mobilizes clubs to engage fully with the Foundation's programs—advancing peace, improving health, supporting education, and providing clean water and sanitation through district and global grants. **Major General Harrison embodies these ideals.** As a Pierce Award recipient, General Harrison stands as an inspiring example to Rotarians and community leaders alike of what it means to lead with purpose and a heart for service. For the complete story, click [here](#).

### ***Share Your Story and Unite for Good!***

*Ronda Baer*

District 7600 Foundation Committee members Mark Duetsch, Bill Billings, Rick Maddux, Sarah Saville, and Ronda Baer led a breakout session at 2025 District Conference about the importance of telling our story — the moment where we discovered our passion for The Rotary Foundation and its programs “to do good in the world.” And by sharing our story, we invite others to be a part of the Unite for Good experience to **GROW our IMPACT!**



We find that experiences that mean a lot to us are the stories that make the most impact. Often they are personal, and sharing our story might make us feel vulnerable. However, to not risk sharing our story denies others the opportunity to be a part of the story. We GROW our membership by inviting others to enter the story of The Rotary Foundation. Share your passion about The Rotary Foundation, whether it be polio eradication, humanitarian grants programs, or educational programs.

We recognize that not all of us are comfortable telling our stories to others, especially those we just met; so, we created a handout that you may use to start a conversation, whether in person or on social media. You may click this [link](#) to see a copy of the handout. It is two-sided, one with a rough draft of Ronda's “Crafting Your Rotary Foundation Elevator Pitch in 3 Steps” for an example, and space where you can begin to write your own story! The other side is “Crafting your Rotary Foundation Social Media Posts in 3 Steps” so that you can begin to share your story with impact and Unite for Good!  
Happy Storytelling!

### ***Innsbrook***

*Beth Jorgensen*

The Rotary Club of Innsbrook received multiple honors at the Rotary District 7600 Foundation Banquet, recognizing the club's exceptional commitment to supporting The Rotary Foundation and advancing Rotary's global mission of service.

During the banquet, the Rotary Club of Innsbrook earned several prestigious distinctions:

- \$250+ Per Capita Giving
- 100% Foundation Giving
- 100% Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)
- Polio Giving Award, with contributions exceeding \$1,500 to help advance Rotary's global campaign to eradicate polio.

These awards collectively reflect the members' steadfast commitment to



supporting Rotary's humanitarian, educational, and peace-building initiatives. Through these contributions, Innsbrook Rotarians continue to expand the club's positive impact both locally and worldwide.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of Joe Elia, the Rotary Club of Innsbrook's Foundation Chair, who received the distinguished District Service Award. This honor is reserved for individuals whose leadership and dedication significantly elevate Foundation engagement within their clubs. Joe's commitment to advancing the club's Foundation goals, his strategic stewardship of member giving, and his use of professional expertise to support compliance and financial integrity have made a lasting contribution to the club's success. His leadership played an instrumental role in positioning Innsbrook for the recognitions received this year.

*Pictured: John Padgett, Stephen Beer, Raghavan Sadagopan, Vicki Puliz, Joy Kline*

**West Richmond**  
*Pam Bozkurt*

The West Richmond Rotary Club is proud to celebrate Barbara Satterwhite, who was honored as our newest Major Donor. She was presented with a Major Donor pin and a crystal plaque in recognition of her remarkable generosity and dedication to Rotary's mission. President Richard McNeil shared the club's deep appreciation for Barb and her unwavering commitment to "Service Above Self." Rotarians achieve Major Donor Status when their cumulative giving to The Rotary Foundation reaches \$10,000 or more. At that level, donors are honored with a crystal recognition piece and a Major Donor lapel pin, presented on behalf of the Foundation's Trustees.

*Pictured: Barbara Satterwhite*

