

# THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

January 21, 2026



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

## Club Calendar

January is Vocational Service Month

January 21 – Classification Talk, Chasity Richardson

January 28 – Visioning Session, Evening

February 4 – Ralph Menzel, The Rotary Foundation

February 11 - Rotary Action Group Against Slavery

February 25 -

## January 21 – Classification Talk – Chasity Richardson

Chasity Richardson is a Submariner Veteran Spouse of 26 years, mother of three adult children and a Virginia Realtor. Chasity supports buyers, sellers, renters, and homeowners transact with confidence by combining market strategy, hard work, attentiveness, organization and genuine care. Chasity is certified in the following areas: real estate negotiations, pricing strategy, 55+ senior real estate, military relocation, digital marketing, luxury home sales and more.



Chasity's experience provides the trust, reliability, and comfort clients desire. Performing well is important to Chasity as is conducting her business with integrity, trustworthiness, effective communication and perseverance.

## January 14 Meeting

Past President Jamie presided. Donna gave the Thought of the Day.

### Announcements:

- ❖ PDG Sandy reminded everyone that any time is a good time to donate to the Rotary Foundation.
- ❖ Jake announced that quarterly invoices have been sent.
- ❖ Donna announced That Chasity has been helping her organizing and managing the companion Club at Harmony.
- ❖ Nikki gave an update on our service project for SCOUT. SCOUT (Strengthening Community through Outreach, Understanding, and Trust) is a fully-equipped, mobile community resource center. It travels across Stafford County to bring critical information, services, and support straight to the heart of the community. The raffle at Via Colori raised \$1,500 for this project. She announced that we are completing our district grant program with North

Stafford Rotary. We will be working on packing food bags after the noon meeting on February 11. Work will begin at 2 and finish no later than 4 pm.

- ❖ Jamie is still working on the Valentine's Day fundraiser.

## Program

Dr. Donald Duckworth delighted the club with a talk about growing up in East Tennessee and his long, highly successful career at the Smithsonian. He talked about meeting Sandy when she was only 17. Donald began college as a pre-med student but soon switched to a biology degree. In graduate school he concentrated on entomology. After he received his PhD, Donald was hired as an entomological researcher. In the early days of their marriage Donald and Sandy traveled throughout the world studying insects.

The Smithsonian Institution was established with funds (about \$500,000 in gold) from James Smithson (1765–1829), the illegitimate son of the Earl of Sandwich and British scientist, who left his estate to the United States to found “at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.” On August 10, 1846, the U.S. Senate passed the act organizing the Smithsonian Institution, which was signed into law by President James K. Polk.

Congress authorized acceptance of the Smithson bequest on July 1, 1836, but it took another ten years of debate before the Smithsonian was founded. Once established, the Smithsonian became part of the process of developing an American national identity—an identity rooted in

exploration, innovation, and a unique American style. The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, with 21 museums, 14 education and research centers, and the National Zoo.

Working in such a complex institution Donald became as interested in museum management as he was in researching insects. He served as the Curator, Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institute, special assistant to the assistant secretary for museum programs and special assistant to the director of the Natural



Donald when he began at the Bishop.



Donald as he prepared to leave the Bishop.

History Museum.

After a 25 year career at the Smithsonian, he became the director of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. He and Sandy lived there for the 16 years he was at the Bishop. He was acclaimed for the many improvements that were made during his tenure at the Bishop.

During the Q&A session Donald discussed the problem of space for collections, which are always growing. In response to a question about the recent interference of the POTUS he described the legal foundation of the institution.

Jake commented on the importance of adequate state funding for public colleges and universities, allowing more young people an affordable quality education.

At the end of the Happy Cup time we learned that Trevor and Danielle have resigned from the club, but Danielle will continue to sponsor MVHS's Interact Club until the end of the school year.

We won't be having Via Colori this year.

**Relay For Life of Stafford**  
**Saturday, May 2, 2026**  
**12:00 PM**  
**Kate Waller Barrett Elementary**  
**150 Duffey Drive**  
**Stafford, VA**

**Luminaria**

Light up your community and honor every life touched by cancer. Dedicate a Luminaria to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who has overcome cancer.



**January Is Vocational Service Month on the Rotary Calendar.**

A promotional poster for January Vocational Service Month. The top half features the word 'JANUARY' in large white letters on a blue background. Below this is a photograph of two young men in hard hats and safety glasses working on a project. A quote by Paul P. Harris is overlaid on the photo: "Of all the hundred and one ways in which men can make themselves useful to society, undoubtedly the most available and often the most effective are within the spheres of their own occupations." Below the quote is the text 'VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH' and the Rotary International gear logo. At the bottom left is the Rotary logo and at the bottom right is the slogan 'TAKE ACTION: Get Involved, Join Rotary'.