

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

June 4, 2025



Club Calendar

June Is Rotary Fellowships Month

June 4 – Virtual Meeting at Noon.
Speaker – PDG Rich Carson

June 5 - Peace Summit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, limited to 37 people.

June 7 – Pride Parade in DC

June 10 – Service Project, packing books for African school libraries. Evening meeting.

June 18 – NO MEETING

June 21-25 – Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta

June 25 – NO MEETING

July 13 - District 7610 installation of Officers Banquet

July 16, 6 pm – Installation of New Club Officers, Stafford Regional Airport

July 27-29 – Trip to Rotary HQ in Evanston.

September 27-28 -Via Colori

October 3-5 – District Conference

June 4 Program – PDG Rich Carson, A Rotary Representative to the Organization of American States

Mr. Carson's career has included long term and ongoing involvement in Rotary, local civic affairs, and successful high technology business areas. As part of Rotary, he is the Past District Governor of District 7620 which includes central Maryland and Washington D.C. He is currently Rotary International's Representative to the Organization of American States** and is assigned other duties as required by Rotary International including programs with the White House. He has collaborated with the International Reading Association (IRA) on a variety of joint RI/IRA matters. He served as the Chair of the Chesapeake Multi District Pets for 2012-2013



In the local civic affairs area, Mr. Carson was Chair of the Montgomery County (Maryland) Health Commission for six years, was a trustee on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) pension plan, served on the Shady Grove Hospital Foundation board and has been on various civic boards.

He has successfully started and runs two high-tech businesses. One business, which is now twenty years old, manufactures and sells worldwide sophisticated internet security products. The second business, which is 38 years old, does high level work for the government in the areas of computer security, enterprise-wide performance metrics, and computer strategic planning.

Mr. Carson has been married for 53 years and has a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree from Cornell University. He has served on the Industry Advisory Council of the Cornell University School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Mr. Carson was commissioned through ROTC in the Army and served as a Lieutenant and Captain and was stationed in the Washington, DC area working on national security issues.

He'll share how a global grant within the MIRPS framework is connecting our two districts with two others, and what's coming for the future of the programs.

*** The Organization of American States (OAS) is a regional organization composed of 35 independent states in the Americas. It was established in 1948 to strengthen peace, security, and democracy in the Western Hemisphere. The OAS also promotes human rights, fosters economic and social development, and encourages regional security cooperation*

May 28 Meeting

We were guests at the monthly meeting of the Quantico-Stafford Happy Hour Toastmasters Club. Toastmasters Club President Michelle Matthews presided. She welcomed our club and gave a brief history of Toastmasters International.

Founded in 1924 by Ralph C. Smedley to create a collaborative learning environment where young men could learn the art of public speaking. A century later, nearly 8 million members (of all genders) in 148 countries/territories around the world have worked on bettering themselves thanks to Smedley's vision of a club environment where members prepare and deliver speeches, respond to impromptu questions, and give and receive constructive feedback. Rotary International and Toastmasters International have formed an alliance to provide members with opportunities to grow networks, leadership and communication skills, and their impact within the community.

A Toastmasters meeting follows a set agenda that includes a "Word of the Evening" introduced by the Club Grammarian, three prepared 5-to-7-minute "Pathways" speeches by club members, and "table topic" impromptu 1 to-3-minute speeches on topics chosen by the club president. The speeches are timed and evaluated. Speakers are given extra credit if they correctly use the Word of the Evening.



The word of the evening was "fiasco", and most of the speakers managed to correctly fit the word into their presentations. Toastmasters Pathways uses a system of skill level rankings to guide members through their learning journey. The levels are generally considered to be: Level 1: Mastering Fundamentals, Level 2: Learning Your Style, Level 3: Increasing Knowledge, Level 4: Building Skills, and Level 5: Demonstrating Expertise. These levels are associated with specific projects and speeches, helping members develop their speaking and leadership abilities.

Two of the three prepared speeches were given by Toastmasters members, working on increasing their skill level rankings. The subjects were: "Presentation Mastery in Public Speaking" and "The Doctor Will See You Now, and So Will the Algorithm". The third speech was an introduction to Rotary by our club President Jamie.

The Table Topic questions were:

- ❖ “I’m proud of my Military because...”
- ❖ Who is your hero in life and why?

Both questions inspired several club members and some Rotarians to give impromptu speeches.

After the speeches the evaluators gave reports on the quality of the speeches. The official timer reported how well each speaker met the time requirements. Then a general evaluator graded the entire program. This was all friendly and fun, but there was a serious purpose for the entire program: improving each club member’s public speaking confidence and skill.



The evening concluded with a discussion between members of the two clubs of possible cooperative projects to help young people gain public speaking skills.

It was a most enjoyable and informative evening. Thank you to IPDG Rene for arranging the event.

June Is Rotary Fellowship Month



June is indeed Rotary Fellowships Month. This month is dedicated to recognizing the importance of international fellowship within Rotary, promoting participation in fellowships, and increasing understanding of the program. Rotary Fellowships are groups of Rotarians who share common interests, whether recreational, vocational, or health-related, and provide a platform for making friends, exploring service opportunities, and enhancing their Rotary experience