

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

May 14, 2025



May 14 Program – Deputy Robert Brooks, SRO Stafford High School

Club Calendar

May Is Youth Service Month

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

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

June 18 – NO MEETING

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

June 25 – NO MEETING

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

September 27-28 -Via Colori

October 3-5 – District Conference

School Protection Officers (SPO - elementary) and School Resource Officers (SRO - secondary) are deputies assigned to our school buildings through a partnership between Stafford Schools and the Stafford County Sheriff's Office. SROs play a crucial role in fostering a safer school environment and building positive relationships between law enforcement and the community. Deputy Robert Brooks is currently serving at Stafford High School and will be speaking at the noon meeting on May 14.

May 7 Meeting

President Jamie presided. Jake read the Stafford High School motto, which aligns closely to the Four Way Test.

President Jamie addressed technical issues and discussed upcoming events. He announced the District Conference in October and the next area service project on June 10th, involving packing books for Africa. He also discussed the District Grant Project, which is nearing completion, and the upcoming event at the Smithsonian on June 5th. He mentioned the need for volunteers to review Grant proposals and judge scholarship essays.

Donna discussed the May 10 Night of Hope event at Kate Waller Barrett, which includes a rotary tent, a book table, and a track walking activity. He emphasized the need for volunteers to man the rotary tent and walk the track. She also reminded us to bring canned goods to hold down the luminarias. The cans will be donated to the food pantry after the event.

She shared updates on the cancer research funding and the progress of

members like PDG Sandy Duckworth and Bob. She also invited participants to the open house at her house to visit Jack and Leigh Ann.

Julie needs volunteers to help with her very large garden where she grows produce for food

pantries in our area.

Nikki introduced Jasmine, a new volunteer who will assist with the clothing closet.

IPDG Rene discussed the club's registration and the upcoming Pride weekend, including the parade and the opportunity to volunteer.

President Jamie announced the installation of a Peace Pole at the school district's Admin building. So many club members will be attending the International Convention in Calgary that it has been decided we will hold no Wednesday meetings on June 18th and 25th. The installation of the club's president, Kristy, is scheduled for July 16th, and the club will celebrate its 35th anniversary.

Program

Our speaker was Priscilla Turner, president of the Parent Teacher Student Organization at Stafford High school. She discussed the activities and goals of the PTSO at Stafford High School. The organization aims to enhance the educational experience, encourage parent involvement, and improve the school environment through volunteer and financial support. They organize various fundraisers such as membership drives, spirit nights, plant sales, and snack carts. The PTSO also supports teachers by providing micro-grants for classroom materials and offers scholarships to seniors. They host events like homecoming, movie nights, and senior events. The organization also provides hospitality to staff and students, including a back-to-school breakfast and a "12 Days of Christmas" cookie event. The PTSO also organizes a post-prom event at Funland, which is sponsored by local businesses and families. The event costs \$35 per student and includes pizza, soda, and snacks. The organization raises funds through various means, including fundraising half of the event cost.

Ms. Turner discussed PTSO involvement in various school activities, including After Prom, student support initiatives, and the Jostens Renaissance program. She highlighted the importance of inclusivity and supporting all students, not just high achievers. The PTSO is seeking ways to increase community involvement, including sponsorships, donations, and volunteer opportunities. Club members discussed the possibility of establishing a Rotary-affiliated Interact Club at the school and expressed interest in collaborating with the PTSO.

Ideas for helping the PTSO included:

- ❖ Rotary Club to explore establishing a liaison position with the Stafford High School PTSO.
- ❖ Rotary Club to consider donating items with Rotary stickers for the After Prom event prizes.
- ❖ Rotary Club to discuss sponsoring students who can't afford the \$35 After Prom ticket.
- ❖ Rotary Club to explore opportunities to promote their scholarship program at PTSO events.
- ❖ Rotary Club to consider attending PTSO spirit nights to help meet minimum sales requirements.
- ❖ President Jamie or another Rotary Club member to attend an upcoming PTSO meeting to discuss the Interact Club.
- ❖ Rotary Club to help find a teacher sponsor to restart the Interact Club at Stafford High School.
- ❖ Priscilla to send out information about Rotary Club to PTSO staff members.
- ❖ Rotary Club to explore ways to collaborate with PTSO on future events and initiatives.



After Prom at Funland

Night of Hope



May Is Youth Service Month

May is Rotary's designated Youth Service Month. It's a time to celebrate and highlight the impact of Rotary's youth programs and the young leaders they support.

Focus on Youth:

May is a month-long celebration of Rotary's programs and activities aimed at young people, including Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and Rotary Youth Exchange.

Recognizing Impact:

Youth Service Month emphasizes the contributions of young people to Rotary's service projects and the overall positive impact they have on their communities and the world.

Global Reach:

Rotary's youth programs are active in many countries, and May provides an opportunity to highlight the diverse experiences and achievements of these young leaders.

Involving Young Leaders:

Rotary encourages clubs to actively participate in youth service initiatives and to involve young people in their service projects throughout the month.



Congratulations to the members of the Rotary Club of Stafford and the North Stafford Rotary Club for winning the Community Partner of the Year Award from Stafford County Schools. Our partnership will change lives.