

THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

April 10, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

April 10 - Phillip Duggins, Associate Director Regional Alumni Engagement, UMW

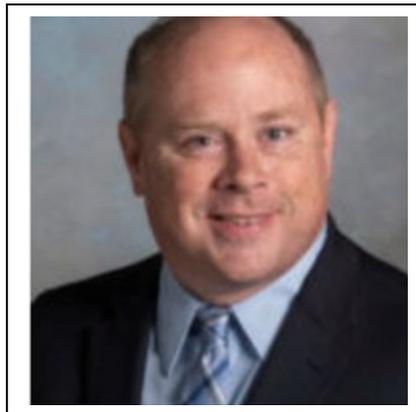
Longwood College, Class of 1994 - Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with an Earth Science minor

From 1994 until 2018, Phillip worked for three different councils (Richmond, VA, Newport News, VA and Bethesda, MD) of the Boy Scouts of America in a variety of positions including district executive, summer camp director, field director and director of field service (COO).

In 2018, Phillip went to the Alumni Engagement office at Mary Washington. His responsibilities include regional networks, affinity groups, alumni support of admissions initiatives, athletics alumni and the Mary Talks series.

In 2019, with more than two decades of experience in event planning and managing volunteers, Duggins was hired to engage Mary Washington's 41,000 alumni globally and help them feel connected to their alma mater. Organized by UMW's 22 regional alumni networks and 10 affinity groups, events were mostly held in person before COVID hit.

Alumni engagement is more challenging now, Duggins said. But his team has found that Mary Washington graduates are still eager to take part in online events, such as last September's virtual tour of the 9/11 Memorial in New York City, led by a UMW alum who works



Club Calendar April Is Maternal and Child Health Month

- ❖ April 10 – UMW Alumni
- ❖ April 17 – Rotary History
- ❖ April 20 – District Youth Summit
- ❖ April 22, 4:00pm to 7:00 pm - Thurman Brisben Center - Help us cook and serve dinner.
- ❖ April 24 – Delegate Joshua Cole
- ❖ April 27 - District Training Assembly - April 2024
- ❖ April 27 – Relay for Life
- ❖ May 2 – Virginia Naturalists
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 -Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ June 30 – Installation of District Officers.
- ❖ July 13 – District Training for the new Rotary year. Membership and TRF
- ❖ July 14 – Installation of New Club Officers
- ❖ August 11-13 – District trip to RI HQ
- ❖ September 28, 29 -Via Colori
- ❖ October 4-6, 2024 – District Conference

at the site. Within 45 minutes, participants registered for all 100 spots, so organizers added a second tour, which also filled up quickly, drawing alumni from as far away as San Diego.

Phillip lives in Spotsylvania County with his wife, Erin, who teaches special education in the county. They have three children: Madelyn, a freshman at Christopher Newport University, Hannah, a high school junior and Zachary, a high school freshman.

Our greatest treasure is our ten beautiful grandchildren who have brought inexplicable joy to our lives. It is no surprise that in Rotary, I am working in youth services, both for my club and my district.

April 3 Meeting

President Jamie presided, and gave the thought for the day via video from RI : “We see opportunities where others see obstacles... We’re Rotary, and there is no limit to what we can do.”

Announcements:

- ❖ The tour of Channel 9 is scheduled April 29. As of the meeting time there was only room for two more people. The group will meet at 4 pm at the station. There is parking available in front of the station.
- ❖ Three people from our club attended RLI on March 30.
- ❖ District Training is scheduled for April 27. Not only committee chairs, but any club member who hasn’t attended a district training meeting is encouraged to attend.
- ❖ The District Awards Banquet is scheduled for June 30. Committee chairs are all working on the award applications.
- ❖ July 13 is the District Membership and Foundation Training for Rotary Year 2023-24.
- ❖ April 29 our club is cooking and serving dinner at the Brisbane Center. PE Shekela is organizing this. Please volunteer if you are able.

Committee Reports:

- ❖ Membership – Discover Rotary Night, April 16
- ❖ Finance – Budget meeting on April 3 to determine dues structure for RY 2024-25
- ❖ Club Service – Programs planned for rest of the Rotary year.
- ❖ Youth Services – Our club speech contest winner won the regional contest and will now compete in the district speech contest. In lieu of a club social we’ll gather at Relay for Life on April 27. We have received essays for the 4 Way Test essay contest.

Program - e3kids International Biblioteca Fundación Exodo Olocuilta, La Paz, El Salvador

President Jamie introduced our guest speakers Lena Gonzalez Berrios from the North Stafford Rotary and our own Donna Almborg.

Rotary District Grant Project Leadership

Lena Gonzalez Berrios

e3kids international Library Project Lead
North Stafford Rotary Club

Donna Almborg

District Grant co-lead, project volunteer
Rotary Club of Stafford





Biblioteca Fundación Exodo

- Over 1600 books in Spanish, English and bilingual
- Legos, learning toys and games
- 14 laptop computers and 7 desktop computer stations
- Early learning area
- Arts, crafts and school supplies
- Display areas for children's art
- 2 young leaders serving as volunteer library assistants.
- 8 Uzima water filtration systems
- Trauma training for tías and staff

Lena gave some background on the library project. A Girl Scout from Fredericksburg Christian School, working on her Gold Award, collected over 1,600 books in Spanish, in English and in both. She was also able to travel to la Paz with the group of volunteers. Lena explained the money-saving method of shipping all the library supplies. The volunteers only took clothes that would fit into one carry-on bag. The checked luggage all contained books, Legos, toys, etc. Donna said it took some careful planning to have enough clothes.



She described the area being served by this library. Although the capital city San Salvador has a magnificent new public library, there are very few libraries in suburban and rural areas.

The volunteers took a lot of Legos with them. Lena met an architect at a library conference who donated so many Legos for the project that there were enough for both Exodo and the library In Kenya.



The library is dedicated to a college professor who worked to improve the lives of the children at Exodo. Lena's husband painted her portrait.



The library has books to appeal to both reluctant and eager readers.



Project goals, preparation & training

- 36 x 50 lb totes and suitcases books and supplies = 1800 lbs
- 8 Uzima filtration systems for clean water project and hygiene training.
- Art and craft classes
- Montessori early learning center
- Establish library and training
- 14 laptops and tech training
- Reader's theater practice and presentation



One of the goals of the project was training volunteer library assistants. Lena is hoping to raise funds for tuition of the library trainees who are maintaining the library.

Lena described a “Readers’ Theater” activity where children write scripts from a book which they all read. They then acted out the story of the book.



The Rotary donations totaled \$13,000. Lena’s church donated another \$18,000. Lena and Donna are exploring a global grant to expand this project.

Lena is returning to Kenya in July to establish another school library in another slum neighborhood.

As a thank you for serving as co-leader on this grant program for our two Rotary clubs Stafford Rotary made Lena a Paul Harris Fellow.

April Is Maternal and Child Health Month

APRIL DESIGNATION IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

"Every child deserves a chance at a life filled with love, laughter, friends and family."

Marlo Thomas

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved

