

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHTER

March 18, 2026



Rotary Club of Stafford  **People of Action**

Club Calendar

March is Water and Sanitation Month

March 18 – Speech Contest

March 25 – Tree Potting Event

April 20 - Harmony Falls Run - Third Monday Of The Month - 2-3 PM

April 25 - District Training Assembly.

May 2 – Relay for Life

June 13-17 - International Rotary Convention, Taipei, Taiwan.

June 24 - SRC Awards and Installation Dinner

June 28 - District 7610 Awards and Installation at The Piedmont Club, Haymarket, VA.

July 12-14 - District 7610 goes to Evanston!

March 18 - Sgt Curtis, SCSO, Stafford RISE

Stafford R.I.S.E. (Rebuilding Independence through Support and Empowerment) strives to connect those facing housing challenges with the resources available to them.



Rebuilding
Independence
Through
Support &
Empowerment

March 11 Meeting

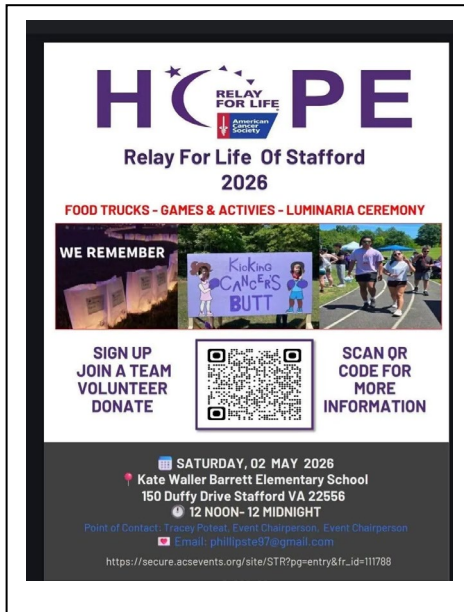
President Kristy presided. The meeting began with comments on this year's CPETS. Chasity reported on the RLI session. DGND Jamie asked for some specific critiques of the facility for the event.

Announcements:

- ❖ Volunteers are needed to help judge the speech contest on March 18th—contact Donna if able to judge, keep time, or monitor students in the hallway'
- ❖ Volunteers are needed to score middle school essay contest submissions, which will be sent electronically—contact Donna if able to help.
- ❖ Register for and attend upcoming district events (e.g., District Training Assembly on April 25, Awards and Installation on June 28) as announced.

- ❖ On April 20 Lena will present a program about e3Kids at our Harmony Companion Club.

Program – March 11



Our guest speaker was Tracey Poteat who is serving as chair for this year's Stafford Relay for Life. She gave us an overview of the event. The goal for this year's fund raising is \$50,000. Last year the event raised \$35,000 for the American Cancer Society. There are currently 17 teams. There are 78 participants signed up for the event. The goal is 150 participants.

There are many activities planned for the day, beginning with the survivors' lap. Each team should have a team member walking at all times through the afternoon and evening.

It is hoped that there will be quite a few more luminarias this year. Club members are also asked to donate canned goods. The cans are used to weigh down the luminarias during the event, and then donated to the food bank. You can donate a luminaria online:

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=relay_luminaria&PROXY_TYPE=21&PROXY_ID=111788&fr_id=111788&search=event

Relay For Life of Stafford
Saturday, May 2, 2026
12:00 PM
Kate Waller Barrett Elementary School

Visit the event web page to find ways to help - [Stafford Relay for Life](#)

JOIN OUR RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM:

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?fr_id=111788&pg=team&team_id=2848743



Our club team will raise funds with this quilt.

District Training Assembly and Post PETS, April 25

The position specific training for all key positions will be held in the morning. Board and committee members (Secretary, treasurer, foundation, public image, membership, service, etc. etc.) will be in their respective essential training.

In the afternoon, it will be a “choose your own adventure” style where you can choose what classes to attend. You’ll see the options on the schedule, and you simply will be able to walk-in to the room you’d like to attend once on-site.

District Training Assembly is for ALL club members — not just your board members. Follow this link for the schedule for the day

https://www.canva.com/design/DAHDw1nQF6l/MFwKFFy9Pdo8DfiLRj9wIA/view?utm_content=DAHDw1nQF6l&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=unique_links&utlId=h126a348002



PE Donna recently hosted a lunch for new club members. It was an opportunity for both fellowship and learning more about Rotary International and our club’s activities.

MARCH IS
www.rotary.org/donate

**WATER, SANITATION
AND HYGIENE
MONTH**

"Water is life, and clean water means health."
Audrey Hepburn

The Rotary Foundation

Stafford Rotary Board Meeting

March 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Stafford High School

Board Members in Attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Larounis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheri Maea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristy Freeman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Almborg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jake Almborg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debra Schleef
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Jackson		

Kristy Freeman calls the meeting to order at 5:01.m. A quorum is present.

Jamie Larounis moved to approve the board meeting minutes from February, 2026., Kristy Freeman seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

CPETS Overview by Donna Almborg

- Donna thanked the board for sending her to CPETS
- Deneal represents strong leadership in our area but notes a negative club culture that needs to be addressed.
- Donna's goal is to ensure bylaws are updated prior to her start of term

Membership:

- Need a retroactive message to club noting the procedural mistake for Sabaina Amara's induction to club membership
- Potential New Members
 - John Tate - currently an honorary member
 - Esther Sodergren
 - Dave Varrelman
- Tisha Johnson from the North Stafford Rotary Club initiated a conversation regarding combining clubs at CPETS. Discussed with Deneal and Ravi for guidance and both agreed that is not advisable at this time.
- Discussed the possibility of hosting a Discover Rotary event in conjunction with the King George Club for a potential date in June using the \$500 award from District 7610 when 2 or more clubs join forces to host a Discover Rotary event. Consider Nikki Jackson's Escape Room activity.

Club Service:

- March 11 - Relay for Life presentation at the regular lunch meeting.
- Kristy Freeman has a lot of feelers out for speakers.
- Visioning needs to be moved to after summer based on significant calendar conflicts.

Finance:

- We are on track
- District Grant money was spent in its entirety
- The last Via Colori installment came in.
- The foundation account is very robust with nearly \$20,000.
- Several members in rears and outreach continues.
- Final invoices for the year will go out on or about April 1, 2026
- Lunch invoices will go out around the same time.
- Recap statements will go out to all members before the end of the Rotary year.

Jake Almborg moved to move \$100 from the operating account to the foundation account from overpayment of dues from George Atwell to be donated in his name. Donna Almborg seconds. All in favor. None opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Service:

- Cheri Maea will be submitting final report for district grant this week to be signed by Kristy Freeman and Tisha Johnson
- Cheri Maea spoke with Julie Spears briefly to choose a project centered on the environment but needs to circle back.
- Relay for Life is May 2, 2026.

Foundation:

- Nikki Jackson & Cheri Maea will connect offline to finalize the purchase of literacy project books
- Cheri Maea will call a board meeting this month

Bylaw Review:

- The district approved their bylaws in accordance with RI updates, which is now required at the club level
- Committee was established with Cheri Maea, Dale Peterson, Kristy Freeman, Jake Almborg, and Jamie Larounis
- This group will divide and tackle club bylaws and foundation bylaws
- Nikki Jackson will review the minutes from this year's board meetings minutes to catalog the concerns that need to be reviewed within the bylaws.

Youth Service:

- Danielle and Donna are meeting on March 11, 2026 to review entries and build packets
- Club level speech contest on March 18, 2026 at Porter Library.
- Kristy Freeman and Nikki Jackson will support the speech contest
- Danielle O'Toole and Donna Almborg are working on engaging a new Interact sponsor at MVHS

District Grant 26-27:

- Application deadline is May 30, 2026
- Potential Options

- Empowerhouse
- Stafford RISE
- SERVE
- Single grant, not to be combined with the North Stafford Rotary Club
- Nikki Jackson will reach out of Empowerhouse and Stafford RISE to coordinate speaking to the club to be considered as a potential grant recipient.

Fundraising:

- Still need to sort out the Square account - maybe consider starting a new account
- Mother's Day getaway raffle - Jamie will coordinate as long as the Square is ready
- Table Fly in for the fall

Installation:

- Kristy Freeman, Donna Almborg, Jamie Larounis will work on the event logistics
- Cheri Maea will assist in submitting awards
- St. Peter's is reserved

Member Engagement

- We need to make a concerted effort to intermingle veteran and club members
- Add welcoming guests to the agenda.

Cheri moved to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. Jake Almborg seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.