

# THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHTER

April 15, 2026



## Club Calendar

April is Maternal and Child Health Month

April 15- SHS, noon,

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

April 22- Noon, SHS, Empower House

April 25 - District Training Assembly.

May 2 – Relay for Life

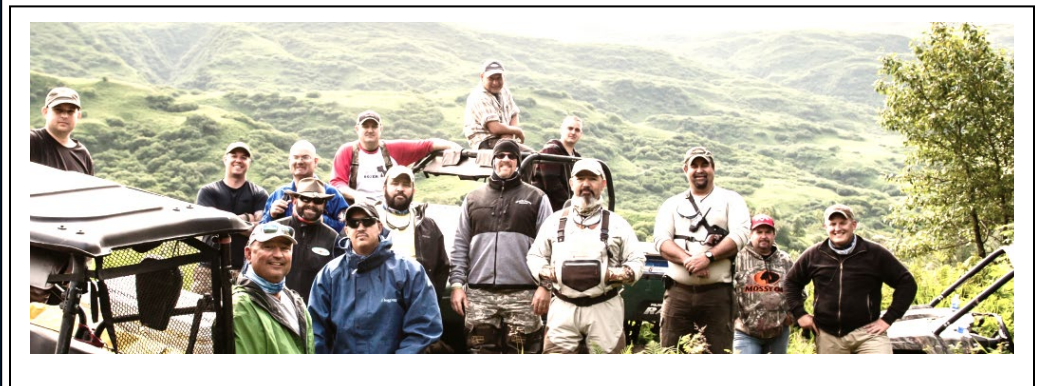
June 13-17 - International Rotary Convention, Taipei, Taiwan.

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!

## April 15 – Dave Ward on Project Healing Waters



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. began in 2005 serving wounded military service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then, PHW has expanded nationwide, establishing its highly successful program in Department of Defense hospitals, Warrior Transition Units, and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and clinics.

## April 8 – Club Assembly

President Kristy presided. For the Thought of the Day she discussed the importance of club assembly.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- ❖ April 22 -Empower House presentation at noon meeting
- ❖ April 25 – District Training Assembly, Brooke Point High
- ❖ April 29 - 6 pm. Club Social, 6 pm, Park Lane Tavern
- ❖ May 2 – Relay for Life, Kate Barrett Elementary School - everyone needs to sign up under Donna’s link, donate, and solicit donations as well. Potential to donate items to the silent auction which also gives our team credit for the funds
- ❖ April 15 – May 1 – Spring Fund Raiser
- ❖ June 24 – Awards and Installation Dinner at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

There followed a discussion of fund-raising. Jake gave a history of our major fund-raising events of past years. Our fund-raising in recent years have been much smaller, limiting the size and scope of our service projects. Julie mentioned a possible plant sale next year.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. Donna’s **Stafford Rotary Club Executive Board for 2026-27**. I am delighted to have so many members interested in serving on our Executive Board and especially pleased to have so many new faces! We will have about a 50/50 split between returning board members and new board members, which should serve us well. DTA on 4/25 important for board to attend.

President: Donna Almborg

President-Elect: Chasity Richardson

President Nominee: Nikki Jackson

Past President and VP: Kristy Freeman

Secretary: Dylan Oakes

Treasurer: Debra Schleef

Bookkeeper: Jake Almborg

Membership Chair: Dale Peterson

Club Service Chair: Julie Speers

Community Service Chairs: Leigh Ann Poland and Chasity Richardson

Youth Services Chairs: Nikki Jackson (MS/HS) and Paige Thomas (ES)

Public Image: Kristy Freeman

Club Foundation Chair: Cheri Maea

Club RI Foundation Chair: Jake Almborg

Executive Secretary/Tech Support: James Larounis

International Chair:

Newsletter: Nelda Mohr

### **2.Membership Update**

- ❖ Discover Rotary Event cohosted with King George Rotary Club scheduled for the evening of June 17.
- ❖ New member induction for Dave Varelman scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Three potential new members completing packets and bio’s to go to the board soon.
- ❖ Two more potential members in need of Discover Rotary orientation.
- ❖ Dale and Donna have met to start process of handing over membership chair duties.

- ❖ Dale and Donna are creating a table to track the many steps in this process.

### 3. Youth Services Update

- ❖ Speech Winner: Sarah Halepaska (CFHS)(\$100), but she was ill and could not go to area level.
- ❖ Music Winner: Carly Geeslin (NSHS)(\$100), was 2nd at area (\$50)
- ❖ Music 2nd Place: Caroline Davis (BPHS)(\$50)
- ❖ Essay Winner: William Knight (GMS)(\$75), sent on to District level, but no results yet
- ❖ Essay 2nd Place: Kimora Jackson (DMS) (\$50)
- ❖ Essay 3rd Place: Alejandro Sotomayor Navarro (GMS)(\$25)
- ❖ Interact Students at MVHS are preparing their service project for SERVE – will learn more next week
- ❖ Interact seniors from MVHS are completing scholarship application packets

### 4. Community Service

- ❖ Relay for Life Stafford – May 2nd join the Stafford Rotary Club’s Team! Buy luminaries, donate, come and walk!
- ❖ Nelda is donating a beautiful quilt for which we are selling raffle tickets – don’t need to be present to win!



- ❖ Paige is heading up the Bead Table and getting support from the Girl Scouts. Contact Donna if you have any questions! Team goal of \$5,000 only have \$631.65 to date and 8 team members.
- ❖ Interact Club from MVHS will be sending us a flyer so we can support their SERVE service project – match \$1,000?
- ❖ Chasity reported delivering feminine hygiene products to Stafford R.I.S.E..

## Last Day to Double Your Impact

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT  
District 7610 Annual Fund SHARE Match


April 1–15, 2026

Take Action: Multiply Your Giving. Strengthen Rotary.  
From April 1–15, District 7610 is offering a limited-time Annual Fund SHARE Matching Program. Your contribution strengthens Rotary's Foundation while accelerating your progress toward Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

Why This Matters  
Every dollar given to the Annual Fund SHARE returns to our district as District Designated Funds (DDF), fueling the service projects and grants that allow Rotary to create lasting change locally and globally.

Limited-Time Match  
Donate \$100–\$500 to the Annual Fund SHARE through my.rotary.org and receive a 1:1 match in Paul Harris recognition points.

How to Participate  
1. Donate at my.rotary.org between April 1–15  
2. Contribute \$100–\$500 to the Annual Fund SHARE  
3. Email your donation receipt to your Club Foundation Chair



Scan to Give at my.rotary.org

Rotary District 7610 | Service Above Self

Ravi Cooper, District Governor

### 5. International Service

- ❖ Our legacy international service project is the Strategic Water Alliance.



# SWA - UGANDA



2.21.2026

Commissioning of the SWA Water Project at the Kabule Health Clinic III Facility in Uganda. It was successful and a big impact for the clinic and larger communities.

West Springfield Rotarian Fred Kalema-Musoke attended the event.



Rotary Club of Muyenga

Contact: AndrewDWade@gmail.com  
RobertJansen57@gmail.com

<https://www.swa7610.org>

Rotary   
Districts 7610 and 9101

Strategic Water  
Alliance (SWA)



# SWA PROJECT THE GAMBIA - WEST AFRICA

2.12.2026



The Banjul Rotarians and Jill Lehman-Shaw (Rotary Club of Gainesville-Haymarket, VA) visited the site of our Global Grant to provide water to a village in Senegambia Beach. Progress is made as for the water tank and tower.



Photos by Jill Lehman Shaw

***Thanks to the Strategic Water Alliance Club Member's support...***

Participating District 7610 Strategic Water Alliance (SWA) Rotary Clubs: Alexandria, Annandale, Bailey's Crossroads, Washington-Dulles International Airport, Dunn Loring-Merrifield, Fairfax, Rappahannock-Fredericksburg, Falls Church, Sterling, Great Falls, Herndon-Reston, Leesburg Evening, Leesburg Daybreak, Manassas, McLean, Tysons, Vienna, West Springfield, Stafford, Gainesville-Haymarket, and Crystal City-Pentagon.



Contact: AndrewDWade@gmail.com  
RobertJansen57@gmail.com

<https://www.swa7610.org>



## Happy Cup

PE Donna is very happy that the board positions are filled for next year.

Paige had to leave early, but had several service projects that she was happy about.

Chasity was happy that she and Donna attended the Rappahannock/Fredericksburg Rotary meeting.

Debra happily announced the arrival of her first grandchild, Charlotte. The baby looks like Debra.

## Relay for Life, May 2

Our Relay for Life supporting the American Cancer Society is coming up and we wanted to share all the details.

**When: Saturday, May 2, noon**

**Where: Kate Waller Barrett Elementary (150 Duffey Drive, Stafford)**

There are four ways you can participate in this event.

**DONATE:**

[https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=team&fr\\_id=111788&team\\_id=2848743](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=team&fr_id=111788&team_id=2848743)

**JOIN THE TEAM:**

[https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=team&fr\\_id=111788&team\\_id=2848743](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=team&fr_id=111788&team_id=2848743)

**PURCHASE LUMINARIAS:**

[https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=relay\\_luminaria&PROXY\\_TYPE=21&PROXY\\_ID=111788&fr\\_id=111788&search=event](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=relay_luminaria&PROXY_TYPE=21&PROXY_ID=111788&fr_id=111788&search=event)

Luminaries purchased by Tuesday, 3/31, midnight will be half-price.

**BUY AND SELL RAFFLE TICKETS:**

Donna is organizing this. We can sell a lot of tickets online as well as the day of the Relay for Life.

By Joining the Team, you can set your own fundraising goal and promote our event on social media. Your personal fundraising will add to our Team's success.

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

# District Training Assembly and Post PETS, April 25

You Are Invited To The



## District Training Assembly & Post PETS

*Club President Elects - Club Leadership  
District Leaders*



Saturday  
April 25th  
9:30a-4:30p



Brooke Point High School  
1700 Courthouse Rd  
Stafford, VA 22554

**REGISTER NOW**

**Registration is \$25/person and  
includes Lunch and performances by  
Rotary Youth Contest Winners**

Training to make YOUR club better:

- Public Image: Communication Action Plans and EPIC AWARD
- Membership Action Plan
- Rotary Foundation: 2026-2027 Priorities
- Legacy Campaign
- Operational Excellence:
  - Visioning/Strategic Planning
  - Ignite
  - Rotary Club Central & 2026-2027 Goal Setting
- Using Artificial Intelligence for your Rotary Club
- Youth Services
- How to Create a More Engaging Club Experience

**CREATE  
LASTING  
IMPACT**





## Stafford Rotary Board Meeting

April 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance:

Jamie Larounis      Cheri Maea      Kristy Freeman  
Donna Almborg      Jake Almborg      Debra Schleef  
Nikki Jackson

Cheri Maea calls the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum is present.

Donna Almborg motions to approve the board meeting minutes from March 2026.  
Jamie Larounis seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

Membership - Donna Almborg

- Induct Dave Varrelman at the 15th meeting
- Esther Sodergren and John Tate will be inducted at the next Harmony meeting
- A couple new membership prospects in the pipeline
- Discover Rotary event on June 17 Escape Room Activity
- Good sign ups for DTA

Club Service Report - Kristy Freeman via Cheri Maea

- Not enough money in the budget to offset all costs for installation and awards - need to charge for attendees
- Location is St. Peter's
- Family Cookout style
- \$10 per person, \$25 per family suggested entry - no charging for events

Financial Report - Debra Schleef

- Meals invoices coming soon

- Need a new invoice from SHS
- Money still incoming from third quarter dues
- Looking good for the rest of the year

#### Community Service - Cheri Maea

- Relay for Life is May 1
- Sign Up will go up after this meeting along with Luminaries
- Paige Thomas is working to involve Girl Scouts

#### SR Foundation - Cheri Maea

- Need to update SRC Foundation bylaws
- Present to Club board in May

#### Literacy Project - Nikki Jackson

- Still need to order the books
- Jamie will order the books and request reimbursement
- Stickers with 4-way test
- Nikki will coordinate with Summer school liaison

#### Youth Services

- Youth contest is wrapping up.
- Waiting on certificates from Kristy for essay contest
- Coordinating with NSRC to distribute
- We had an area level second place winner - Carly Geeslin for the music contest

#### District Grant -

- Stafford RISE OR
- Empowerhouse - presentation on April 22

Jamie Larounis motions to adjourn at 5:41 p.m. Jake Almborg seconds. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passes unanimously.