

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHTER

February 11, 2026



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

Club Calendar

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

February 11 - Service project! @ SHS - 2:15 PM. We will be packing weekend food bags for Stafford County students.

February 18 - Lunch Meeting @ SHS. Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. PDG Amelia Stansell.

February 25 - Evening Social, 6 PM Location TBD.

February 28 - Interact Summit. Volunteers Needed!

April 25 - District Training Assembly.

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

June 24 - SRC Awards and Installation Dinner

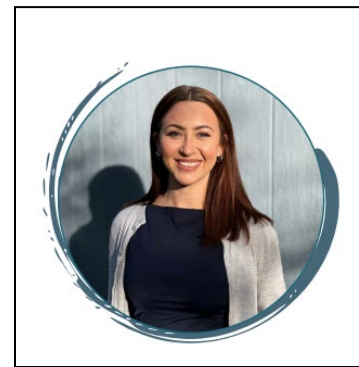
June 28 - District 7610 Awards and Installation at The Piedmont Club, Haymarket, VA.

July 12-14 - District 7610 goes to Evanston!

February 11 – Hailey Jobin, Executive Director, Mental Health America Fredericksburg Region

Founded in 1955 by local citizens, Mental Health America Fredericksburg Region (MHAfred) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization addressing all aspects of mental health and mental health challenges.

Serving Planning District 16 (Caroline, Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford) for over six decades, MHAfred exists to improve the lives of people with mental health challenges by providing advocacy, education and services that improve access to quality mental health treatment and services, particularly for vulnerable populations like the uninsured and elderly. Every year nearly 5000 people contact MHAfred seeking help and asking, “where do I turn?” MHAfred’s job is to help them find that help so they can enjoy fulfilling, productive lives at home and at work.



February 4 Meeting

President Kristy presided. Instead of a Thought of the Day club members shared memories of PDG George Atwell, PDG Sandy remarked that his death is a terrible loss for Rotary International, not just District 7610. Donald commented that PDG George had attended more international conventions than anyone he’s known in Rotary. He fondly remembers George’s performances as Paul Harris and his trips to India to volunteer at National Immunization Days. Nelda remembered his conducting the annual memorial service at district conferences.

Announcements:

- ❖ February 25, evening social. Venue to be announced.
- ❖ District Training Assembly scheduled for April 25th.

Program – Ralph Menzel, District Foundation Chair

President Kristy introduced the speaker, Ralph Menzel. Ralph shared his passion for the Rotary Foundation, emphasizing the importance of educating members about its mission and impact.

The presentation focused on the Rotary Foundation's activities and financial status. He highlighted the Foundation's 4-star charity rating and its \$2.052 billion endowment fund, which generates approximately \$30 million in spendable earnings annually. Ralph emphasized the importance of continued contributions and discussed various giving options, including Rotary Direct. The group also reviewed district grant projects and the potential for global grants. Ralph talked about a recent application for a global grant for a water project in Matthews County, Virginia. Global grants aren't just for projects in other countries.



When you give to The Rotary Foundation, you are directly supporting Rotary's work. Your gift makes our service projects — projects that eradicate polio, promote peace, and develop communities — happen.



Relay For Life of Stafford
Saturday, May 2, 2026
12:00 PM
Kate Waller Barrett Elementary
150 Duffey Drive
Stafford, VA

Luminaria

Light up your community and honor every life touched by cancer. Dedicate a Luminaria to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who has overcome cancer.





2026 Interact Summit
Saturday February 28, 2026 | 8:30am – 4:30pm
Laurel Ridge Community College – Fauquier Campus
6480 College Street • Warrenton, VA 20187

\$10/student or Interact Advisor | \$50/Rotarian

[REGISTER NOW](#)

SHOP THE AMAZON WISHLIST TO SUPPORT THIS DISTRICT-WIDE INTERACT SERVICE PROJECT!

INTERACT SUMMIT 2026
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Help collect school supplies to make 300 kits for local and international students! Donated items will be collected and distributed to students K-12 by e3kids international, a U.S. based non-profit with a mission to equip, empower and educate. Ship donations by Monday, January 19 to project sponsor e3kids international or bring items to the event Saturday, January 24 at GMU-Arlington Campus.

 TINYURL.COM/2ECY4YN8

 **FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT ROTARIAN LENA GONZALEZ BERRIOS CALL OR TEXT 540-760-2123**

Donations Needed - Interact Summit - At the summit on February 28th, participants will be creating 300 school supply kits for students here in Virginia and in Kenya (Via E3 Kids). Our club foundation made a donation of \$500 to this project in honor of PDG George Atwell, a lifelong champion for education. Please join us in supporting this project by making a donation to the Stafford Rotary Foundation or directly to the supply drive by purchasing online - tinyurl.com/2ecy4yn8 or by bringing supplies from the wishlist to a club meeting before February 28th.

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month on the Rotary Calendar.



February is dedicated to Peace and Conflict Resolution in Rotary.

As an international organization, Rotary believes that peace is not just the absence of war but the presence of justice, understanding, and opportunity.

Through its global network, Rotary actively works to prevent conflicts by promoting dialogue, supporting education, and addressing the root causes of violence—such as poverty and inequality.

Rotary's Peace Centers train leaders to become effective mediators and changemakers in their communities.

At the local level, clubs engage in projects that foster social cohesion, provide humanitarian aid in crisis zones, and support refugees.

By building bridges between cultures and communities, Rotarians contribute to a more harmonious world.

This month, let us reflect on our role in promoting peace and finding solutions to conflicts.

Every action, no matter how small, can make a difference in creating a more peaceful future.