

# THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

January 3, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

## January 3 Program - Susan Sigmon, Empower House

### Susan Sigmon Justice Service Director Empowerhouse

Susan Sigmon is the Justice Services Director for Empowerhouse, a non-profit domestic violence agency located in Fredericksburg. She has worked in multiple service agencies, providing immediate and ongoing services to adults and children.

During her 12 years with Empowerhouse, she has delivered direct services to over 2000 victims of domestic violence. She has been certified in court as an expert witness on intimate partner violence and has facilitated presentations and trainings about domestic violence, both locally and nationally, for law enforcement and other organizations.

She is a member of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Victims Crisis Assistance and Response Team, (DCJS VCART), and has provided direct response crisis intervention, grief counseling, and other services to primary and secondary victims of both the Virginia Beach and University of Virginia mass shootings. She is the Coordinator for the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP), which is in partnership with the Stafford County Sheriff's Office.

Susan is a 1987 graduate of Winthrop University. She has dedicated her professional career to providing trauma informed



### Club Calendar January Is Vocational Service Month

- ❖ January 3 – 10:30 Board Meeting with DG Rene
- ❖ January 3 - Susan Sigmon, Empower House
- ❖ January 10 – Regular Board Meeting
- ❖ January 10 – Official DG visit
- ❖ January 15 – Visit to RI Headquarters
- ❖ January 17 - Sheriff David Decatur
- ❖ January 24 – TBD
- ❖ January 31 – Club Social
- ❖ February 7 - Mark Cook, Shelter Box
- ❖ February 14 - TBD
- ❖ February 21 - PDG Leigh Hudson, D7710 - Roots of Rotary
- ❖ February 23- Rotary is 118 years old.
- ❖ February 28 – Club Social
- ❖ March 6 - TBD
- ❖ March 13 - TBD
- ❖ March 20 - Dr. Thomas Taylor - STAFFORD COUNTY School Superintendent
- ❖ March 2024 -District Grant Seminar
- ❖ District Training Assembly - April 2024
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 -Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ Fall, 2024 – District Conference

advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and other crimes.

## December 13 Meeting

President Jamie presided. He welcomed our guests: PDG Ronnie Chanker and PDG Janet Brown. Holly gave the thought of the day.

PDG Sandy presided over the election of our officers for Rotary year 2024-25.

President: Shekela Hutchison  
President Elect: Kristy Freeman  
Secretary: Dylan Oakes  
Treasurer: Mike Smith  
Bookkeeper: Jake Almborg  
Sergeant-at-arms: Debra Schleef

### Announcements:

- ❖ January 15 is the date for the trip to Chicago for the visit to RI Headquarters in Evanston. There are about 20 club members going from our club and other clubs in District 7610.
- ❖ Jake reported that dues statements have gone out for the quarter.
- ❖ Board meetings will be held the second Wednesday of the month.
- ❖ DG Rene's official club visit is scheduled for January 10. Because of this visit the January board meeting with DG Rene will be held on January 3 at 10 am.
- ❖ Membership – Linda Moore is a potential new member who plans to join after she recovers from a scheduled January surgery.
- ❖ Public Relations – PDG Sandy is trying to get more articles in the *Free Lance Star*.
- ❖ The Riverside Center or Bowman's are being considered for our casino night fundraiser.
- ❖ Youth Services – Donna reported that we will hold the speech and essay contests in partnership with North Stafford Rotary. She gave an update on the grant project: E3Kids, furnishing a school library in El Salvador.

### Program: AG Cheri Maea

AG Cheri's program prepared us for DG Rene's official visit in January. The focus for this Rotary year is Mental Health. At the board meeting on January 3 be prepared to discuss the following items with the District Governor:

- Our focus club project
- Fundraising projects
- Membership plans
- Public Image plans
- Special requests and concerns

Our club goal for giving to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund is \$13,000. Our club is on track to meet the goal. By the beginning of December we had given \$8,000. Our Polio Plus giving goal is \$5,000. We should reach this goal because of the club donation of \$2,000 and the number of club members who are members of the Polio Plus Society.

Some upcoming events:



- February 24 - 2024 Peace Building Conference
- February 29 -Chesapeake Multi-District
- March 30 - RLI - District 7610- Parts I, II and III - Warrenton, VA

## Thank You to Our Hosts at the Paradise Diner

As a thank you for all the help theyb have given us making our weekly meetings run smoothly, David and Manal were made Paul Harris Fellows.



President Jamie is our newest member of the Paul Harris Society. He was welcomed by three Past District Governors.

## A Bit of Club History

The Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee is a group of Rotarians who organize and fund the creation of a float for the Tournament of Roses Parade held annually on New Year's Day in Pasadena, California. The committee was formed after the first Tournament of Roses experience and has been entering a float every year since 1980. The committee receives contributions each year from approximately 8 Rotary Districts and an additional 700 Individual Rotary Clubs to fund the float. The float is designed to promote Rotary's mission and is a symbol of the Rotary's commitment to community service. The Rotary 2024 Rose Rowl Parade Float Theme: Clean Water - The Music of Life.



For many years our club supported this activity by levying special Rose Bowl fines that were both comical and designed to apply to every club member.

## Wonderful Holiday Party

Thank you to President-Elect Shekela for hosting such a fun party. The food was delicious, and the gift exchange was hilarious. Now we know which of us love pickled herring!



## Setup Schedule

The schedule is based on your last name:

- A-E - January, May, September
- F-K - February, June, October
- L-P - March, July, November
- Q-Z - April, August, December

If your last name falls within the designated month, here are your responsibilities:

- ❖ Please try to come to Paradise about a half hour early, when possible.
- ❖ Setup the 3 main banners on the wall -- 4 way test, district governor flag, Stafford Rotary flag
- ❖ Bring the podium out, add the wheel to the podium
- ❖ Set up the bell and gavel
- ❖ Set out the Stafford Rotary meets here A-frame sign outside the door
- ❖ Set up the tables in our usual meeting formation, with a Sergeant at Arms greeter table by the door
- ❖ Where possible, set up our new metal pole signs
- ❖ Put out the Create Hope in the World banner
- ❖ Set out the American flag

If you won't be at the meeting, try to contact another Rotarian to help in your stead.