

# THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHTER

May 20, 2026



## Club Calendar

### May is Youth Service Month

May 20 – Noon Meeting, Program - Stafford County Sheriff's Department

May 27 – Club Social, 6:30 pm at Foode

June 3 – Virtual only noon meeting

June 10 – Club Assembly, Noon at Stafford High

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

June 17 – Evening only meeting, Discover Rotary joint meeting with King George/Dahlgren Rotary

June 24 - SRC Awards and Installation Dinner . St. Peter's Lutheran Church 6:00

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

July 12-14 - District 7610 goes to Evanston!

## May 20 – Stafford County Sheriff's Department

In 1664 the parliament decreed that each county was allocated one sheriff's position. In 1664 Stafford County became one of the first counties in Colonial Virginia to appoint a sheriff. Since that time a continuous line of sheriffs have served the citizens of the County, including the names of Mason and Washington.



## May 13 Meeting

President Kristy presided, welcomed our guest Ernest Sparrow who recently moved to Stafford and our guest speaker Xiao-Yin "Tang" Byrom, District 7610 PolioPlus Society chair.

Jamie gave the Thought of the Day and talked about Rotary's annual meeting with congressional members to discuss the fight to eradicate polio scheduled for the evening.

### Announcements:

- ❖ There is no noon meeting on May 27. There will be an evening club social at Foode at 6:30.
- ❖ The June 3 noon meeting will be virtual only.
- ❖ June 10 – Club Assembly, Noon at Stafford High

- ❖ Registration is now open for the June 28 District 761- awards and installation Dinner in Haymarket.
- ❖ June 17 – Evening only meeting, Discover Rotary joint meeting with King George/Dahlgren Rotary at the Fredericksburg Area Association of Realtors headquarters in Fredericksburg, 2050 Gordon W. Shelton Boulevard, Fredericksburg
- ❖ June 24 - SRC Awards and Installation Dinner . St. Peter’s Lutheran Church 6:00
- ❖ Jake presented our club scholarship at Mountain View High
- ❖ \$500 will be sent to the Mathews Water Project Global Grant
- ❖ The board approved the application for a district grant to benefit Empowerhouse.

### **Program – Xiao-Yin “Tang” Byrom**

President Kristy introduced our guest speaker by reminding us that our club members have only donated \$801 to polio eradication this Rotary year. We need to increase that to \$1,500. Donating to PolioPlus is easy through “Donate” on My Rotary or by using the Ignite app that all club members should have installed on our phones.

Xiao-Yin “Tang” Byrom currently serves as the PolioPlus Chair for Rotary District 7610. Earlier this year, she had the honor of participating in a National Immunization Day in India. The experience—vaccinating children and meeting families impacted by Rotary’s efforts—was deeply humbling and reminded her how powerful even the smallest act of service can be when done with love and purpose. Tang believes that as Rotarians, we are called to lead with humility, gratitude, and an unwavering commitment to Rotary’s motto: Service Above Self.

The road to eradicating polio has been a long and difficult one, with Rotary leading the fight since 1985. Going from nearly 350,000 cases in 1988 to just 10 so far this year has required time, money, dedication, and innovation from thousands of people who are working to end the disease.

Here are five things you may not know about the fight to end polio:

1. Ice cream factories in Syria are helping by freezing the ice packs that health workers use to keep the polio vaccine cold during immunization campaigns.
2. Celebrities have become ambassadors in our fight to end the disease. They include WWE wrestling superstar John Cena, actress Kristen Bell, action-movie star Jackie Chan, golf legend Jack Nicklaus, Grammy Award-winning singers Angelique Kidjo and Ziggy Marley, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, anthropologist Dr. Jane Goodall, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates, and world-renowned violinist and polio survivor Itzhak Perlman.
3. Health workers and Rotary volunteers have climbed mountains, crossed deserts, and sailed to remote islands, risking their lives to vaccinate children against this disease. Rotary has funded more than 1,500 motorbikes and 6,700 other vehicles, as well as 17 boats, to make



those journeys. Vaccinators have even traveled on the backs of elephants, donkeys, and camels to immunize children in remote areas.

4. In Pakistan, the polio program emphasizes hiring local female vaccinators and monitors. More than 21,000 vaccinators, 83 percent of whom are women, are achieving the highest immunization coverage rates in the country's history.

5. Thanks to the efforts of Rotary and its partners, more than 16 million people who otherwise might have been paralyzed are walking today. In all, more than 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated since 1988.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year. Only 60 cents worth of vaccine, given in four doses, can immunize a child for their entire life.

Tang concluded by asking us, "Who paid for your vaccine when you were a child?"



## District 7610 on Capitol Hill



## May Is Youth Services Month



Every May, Rotary International celebrates Youth Service Month! While Rotary's young leaders are worth celebrating every month, May offers an exciting opportunity to highlight the leadership development and service impacts of the more than 350,000 young leaders who participate in Rotary International's youth programs each year.

Learn more about Rotary International's youth programs:

**Interact clubs** bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Interact clubs organize at least two service projects each year: one that supports their local school or community and one that promotes international understanding.

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** is an intensive leadership experience organized locally by Rotary clubs and districts for young people ages 14-30. During RYLA, participants develop leadership skills while having fun and forming lasting friendships.

**Rotary Youth Exchange** offers students ages 15-19 the opportunity to learn a new language, discover another culture, and build lasting friendships with young people from around the world! Exchanges are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries and range from short-term exchanges lasting several days to three months and long-term exchanges that last a full academic year.