



### Governor's Newsletter for February 2024

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors  
February is upon us, and the members of District 7620 will celebrate many different events this month: Black History Month, Valentines Day, Presidents' Day, and Mardi Gras to name a few. In the World of Rotary, we will celebrate the Anniversary of the founding of our great organization on February 23, 1905. This day is now known as, "World Understanding and Peace Day," all around the globe. We are one hundred and nineteen (119) years young in Rotary, and we continue to seek a world where we unite and take action to make lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

The Rotary International (RI) theme for this month is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution. As a humanitarian organization, this theme is one of seven Areas of Focus in Rotary, and as Rotarians, we are encouraged to foster conversations on Peace which build good will, and foster understanding within and across cultures.

Peace is a cornerstone of our organization, and it is also one of four priorities that I have identified as District Governor for Rotary Year 2023-2024. I have charged our District Peace Committee to host events which help educate our members on this theme. The Committee is currently planning a 2<sup>nd</sup> Peace Webinar to be held via Zoom on February 24, 2024 in conjunction with George Mason University in Virginia, and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. The event will be held from 11am-1pm, and will focus on the unique topic of Peace in Journalism. We hope you will join the conversation!

Finally, before this year concludes, we anticipate hosting a District 7620 Peace Summit and Concert to bring together intelligent minds to address the importance of Peace within ourselves, within our communities, and within our world. We will invite District talent to perform during the concert and will celebrate our various differences, and our diversity as one human race in Rotary.

February will be a busy month! I look forward to seeing you online, or in person, for the various District happenings!

Yours In Rotary Service,  
Delores Edwards Harding  
District Governor 2023-2024





DG Visit to Rotary Club of Bel Air



DG Visit to Smoketown Rotary Club of Brunswick Maryland with Picture Memorial for Deceased Rotarian Charlie Harris.

### Registration for District Conference is NOW OPEN!



Get ready to set sail for a springtime adventure of service, connection and Chesapeake charm at the District’s Conference! Join us at the stunning Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort, where the sun-kissed waters meet endless possibilities for learning, fellowship, and action.

- Engaging keynotes from inspiring leaders who will ignite your passion for Rotary’s mission
- Dynamic breakout sessions covering a diverse range of topics
- Unforgettable networking opportunities to connect with fellow Rotarians from across the district and forge powerful collaborations.

And of course, the change to explore the breathtaking beauty of the Chesapeake Bay! Kayak through pristine coves, take a stroll, or simply unwind and soak up the sunshine on the resort’s private beach.

Registration is now open! Visit [rotary7620.org/districtconference](https://rotary7620.org/districtconference)! [Read More](#)

### Rotary Club of Baltimore 2024 Oyster Roast | 02/03/24



[Read More](#)



## Ukrainian Ambassador Addresses DC Club on January 31



The Ukrainian Ambassador, Oksana Markarova, was welcomed with a standing ovation at the Washington, DC Rotary Club's weekly luncheon on January 31, 2024. DC President Lisa Cohen and DC Rotarian Natalie Korytnyk provided a warm introduction to the club. [Read More](#)

## Lexington Park Rotary Participates in Out of Darkness Walk



The Rotary Club of Lexington Park spent a day of service participating in the American Foundation for Suicide (AFSP) Prevention Southern Maryland Out of Darkness Walk. The Lexington Park team, led by Team Captain Rose Frederick, raised \$1000 in support of AFSP! The purpose of the Out of Darkness Community Walks is to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and suicide prevention. Moreover, the Out of Darkness Community Walks support AFSP's mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. Greg Reuss, RCLP's Vocational Director, was the Event Coordinator. Thank you, Lexington Park Rotarians !

## Grow Rotary by Learning Best Practices from our Top Membership Sponsors



Dear Rotarians, and friends,

The District 7620 Membership Committee is pleased to host monthly educational opportunities where clubs can learn best practices for growing and retaining members.

On Monday, March 4th at 6:00 PM, a 20-minute presentation followed by time for questions will feature two speakers from District 7620 that will share important tools such as Membership Action Plan (MAP) and Membership Leads to grow membership.

[Click here to register!](#)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83242608572?pwd=bG9LYjB1T0FBdTkxWHZvbXJRQkxFTU\\_09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83242608572?pwd=bG9LYjB1T0FBdTkxWHZvbXJRQkxFTU_09)

Meeting ID: 832 4260 8572

Passcode: 12345

We are grateful to the panel of speakers representing our District:



**Mandy Warfield Granger**

D7620 Governor Nominee

D7620 MAP Ambassador

Past President, Rotary Club of Dupont Circle,

<https://www.dupontrotary.org/>

Chair, D7620 Bylaws Committee

Member, D7620 Membership Committee

Member, D7620 Membership Committee  
RLI Graduate



**Robert "Bob" Sartwell**

Current President and Past President,  
Rotary Club of Lake Shore-Severna Park,  
<https://www.rotarycluboflakeshore.org/>

D7620 Membership Leads Coordinator  
Member, D7620 Membership Committee  
RLI Graduate

Missed our February 5th webinar? [Watch the recording here!](#)  
What topic would you like the District Membership Committee to focus on in their next webinar?  
[Submit your response here!](#)

## Four-Way Test Program Presentation on February 12



Join Matthew May on **Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 7pm** as he discusses how you as an individual and/or your club can participate in the Four Way test program this upcoming year.

During the presentation he will discuss:

- How your club can operate their own Four Way Test contest
- How your club can sponsor a contestant without having to run a contest at the club level
- How you can be involved as a mentor at the individual level if you would like to help the candidates prepare their speeches
- Key dates involved
- Changes that have been made to the scoring sheet that place more emphasis on the Four Way Test questions
- New online registration system

[Register NOW](#) for **4 Way Test Information Session**

Matthew May  
Four Way Test District 7620 Coordinator  
[thefourwaytestguy@gmail.com](mailto:thefourwaytestguy@gmail.com)  
410.340.9127

## Mt. Airy Rotary Club's DDF Project on Windy Ridge Trails

Below are two pictures of the battery-operated maintenance tool transfer worth \$8,000 (procured through District 7620's DDF project for environmental protection of Windy Ridge Trails). Transfer was officially done to the Town of Mt Airy at their Council meeting on Feb 5. We are thankful to the District Leadership for approving this valuable project.



Picture 1: Group picture of Rotarians with Town Council members and the Mayor. [Read More](#)

## Rotary Red Line Happy Hour



A good time was had by all! On Monday, January 22nd, Rotary Clubs along the Red Line came together at Hilton Washington DC/Rockville for an unforgettable evening of camaraderie, great conversations, Rotarian fellowship, delicious appetizers and drinks. Thanks to all who joined and contributed to the warm and welcoming Rotary community. A special thank you and shout-out to the **Rotary Club of Rockville** for hosting a wonderful event. Stay tuned for more exciting Red Line Happy Hour events in the future, and let's keep the Rotary spirit alive!  
[#D7620RedLineHappyHour](#) [#RockvilleRotary](#) [#rotarydistrict7620](#)

## Disaster Update – Deployment for Tennessee Tornadoes

District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to recent disasters including Tennessee Tornadoes. We are helping the disaster victims, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. We thank you for your past donations. Please see below a detailed description of DAUSA deployment for Tennessee Tornadoes.



**Tennessee Tornadoes:** Between January 2 and 6 we coordinated with an Ohio team to deploy at Tennessee. [Read More](#)



## RI president-elect announces 2024-25 presidential theme

Rotary International President-elect Stephanie Urchick announced that the 2024-25 presidential theme is *The Magic of Rotary* and called on members to recognize and amplify the organization's power to save lives.

“Don't misunderstand me – we are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand and saying some funny words,” Urchick told incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly on 8 January. “It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member.”

[Read More](#)



## Singapore Convention News Corner

Your District's Singapore Convention Committee is still busy working to make your convention experience a memorable one. So far, our plans include a Meetup in the DMV area, for those registered and others who may be interested in attending the convention; a District 7620 standout polo that represents our District's region and highlights our projects; an information Webinar; a Singapore Meetup; and available Tours information. Be sure to check out <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/registration> for registration information as well as Singapore travel requirements. Stay tuned for lots more and hope you'll join us in Singapore!

Save the dates for the following:

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30pm – 8:30pm for our Informational Zoom Webinar where we will share our District's finalized plans. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions, as well as share your travel and accommodation plans. Email reminders and Zoom Link will be sent as we get closer to the date.
- May 26<sup>th</sup> – Immediately after the Convention's Opening Session in Singapore, we will meet in front of the venue, and take a District 7620 group picture. Thereafter, we will head to our Singapore Meetup. Location TBD but it will be close to the Opening Session venue.
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – Southland Reception for Zones 33 & 34. More information to come as it becomes available.
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – Host Hospitality Night 6:00pm – 10:30pm (local Singapore time). Cost:\$95. For more information: <https://rotarysingapore2024.org/events/>.

Stay tuned for lots more and hope you'll join us in Singapore!

## Broadneck HS Interact Club Local Environmental Action Fair and Film Festival

You are invited to the Broadneck High School Interact Club, sponsored by the Parole Rotary, Local Environmental Action Fair (LEAF) and the Broadneck Film Festival on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Broadneck High School Auditorium, 1265 Green Holly Dr, Annapolis, MD 21409.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to see pictures of past LEAF events. Hope you can join us to support our Interacts.

## Parole Rotary's Books for International Goodwill



Books for International Goodwill (B.I.G.) was originally created by the Parole Rotary Club of Annapolis to send books to underserved populations. Contact is made to local Rotary chapters, for distribution to those who would appreciate the donated books. A team of Rotarians, and community volunteers, process books donated to B.I.G and prepare them for shipping. BIG has donated books to over 40 countries. In 2023, B.I.G processed over 250,000 books and shipped approximately 120,000. Recent shipments have gone to Albania, Tanzania, Nigeria Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia and books are being readied for shipment in 2024. The most positive feedback comes from the fact that recipients ask for additional shipments. For many it's their first book! The Parole Rotary just recently shipped its 9.5 millionth book !! To cover the cost of the shipping, as well as operating expenses, books are made available to the public and booksellers, through a weekend book sale - held one weekend a month. Over \$150,000 was raised in 2023.

*Pictured are Rotarians Scott Gregory, warehouse manager and B.I.G. president Steve Frantzich. For more information - <https://www.parole-rotary.org/books-international-goodwill-b-i-g/>*



## 2024 Pre-PETS Training - January 20, 2024



Dear Rotary Family,

DGE Nomie Hamid embarked on his journey with an incredible start, conducting his first official training session for President-Elects this past weekend. It was a resounding success, filled with valuable insights, inspiring moments, and a shared vision for the future of Rotary.

The training featured a lineup of exceptional speakers who covered a wide array of topics. We delved into areas such as Strategic Planning, Budgeting, and the effective use of Dacdb and [myrotary.org](http://myrotary.org). We also had the privilege of hearing from our youth - the bright minds actively involved in Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and more.



One of the highlights of the training was engaging in real-life scenarios through role-play, addressing the challenges and decisions that club boards often encounter. We also had the honor of hosting a distinguished panel of wisdom.

[Read More](#)

## DC Rotary Club Celebrates their Youth Programs !

The [DC Rotary Club](#) celebrated their Youth Programs at their December 20th meeting. Interact Club officers from [Richard Wright Public Charter School](#) were invited to their weekly luncheon to provide their Club members with an update about their activities and events. In addition, their Outbound RYE student was thrilled to share with the Club that she had been officially accepted into Rotary's Youth Exchange Program and will be the first to represent her school since it's charter. Her top three country choices are Japan, Thailand or India. This is the second student in a row the DC Rotary Club fully sponsors to go abroad. DC Rotary Club members are People of Action making a difference in the Washington, D.C. community and beyond. Way to go!



## New Rotaract Club of Loyola University Chartered



Congratulations to Charter President Ceci Oliver (and club members), the Rotary Club of Baltimore, and to the District Rotaract Team for your collaboration on this effort. Governor Delores looks forward to working with all of you this year, and hopes to celebrate with a Kick-off Charter event in Baltimore! [Read More](#)

## Virtual Pre-PETS Training - January 24-25, 2024

### Day 1 - January 24, 2024



### Day 2 - January 25, 2024

[Read More](#)

## Rotaract Club New Member Induction



## Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. - MLK Day!



On MLK Day, we were grateful to serve our community and be part of the MLK Day of Service Blanket & Toiletry Drive. Serving our community and spreading warmth on this special day. [#RotaractServes](#) [#MLKDayofService](#) [#communityservice](#) [#peopleofaction](#) [#washingtondc](#) [#rotaractdc](#)



## Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. - Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! Grateful for an incredible year with the Rotaract Club of Washington, DC! Reflecting on our impact and the bonds we've forged. Here's to the friendships, service, and growth. We are excited for the adventures and positive change ahead in the coming year! [#RotaractDC](#)



[Read More](#)

## RYLA 2024 Volunteers and Group Leaders Wanted!



Dear Fellow Rotarians and friends,

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is right around the corner. Please consider joining us to assist next February 17-19th, 2024 at YMCA Camp Letts in Edgewater, Maryland over President's Day weekend!

RYLA is an intense 3-day, 2-night leadership training program that is designed to recognize, encourage and further develop the leadership skills of 10th, 11th and 12th-grade high school students who have shown a potential for rendering important service to their schools and communities. The program was first developed in New Zealand and Australia in 1959 to fulfill a need to recognize and develop outstanding young people. RYLA was later adopted by Rotary International and is now held throughout the world.

We are still in need of volunteers to serve as Group Leaders or facilitators, and mentor our high school participants. Group Leaders can be [Read More](#)

### RYLA video accessible in languages

Rotary International has released a brand new Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) promotional video! Use this resource to showcase the RYLA experience for participants and member organizers.

This video is available to view on [YouTube](#) and can be downloaded within the Rotary [Brand Center](#) with subtitles in English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, German, and Italian.

[DOWNLOAD VIDEO](#)



### Interact Awards submissions make history

**Best Video, Best Photo, and Best Essay to be announced in**

Rotary International received nearly 600 submissions to the 2023 Interact Awards. That is more than ever before - nearly double from the 2022 Interact Awards! We will announce the recipients of Best Video, Best Photo, and Best Essay awards in mid-February. Mark your calendars!

mid-February  
2024!

## Make 2024 the year to start your service-learning journey

Rotary International's approach to youth service, service-learning, is a proven method for activating young people to create a lasting impact on their communities and themselves. Service-learning is **youth-led**, meaning that participants are in charge of their service experience with the guidance of an adult adviser. Service-learning also empowers youth participants to hone **life skills** and enact **real change** within their communities by addressing genuine community needs through sustainable service solutions. [Read More](#)



## In Memoriam: Charlie Harris, Smoketown Rotary Club



Charles Edmund "Charlie" Harris passed from this life January 29, 2024 with his beloved wife, Sherry, by his side. He was 73 years old.

Born February 13, 1950, in Danville, Virginia, Charlie was the son of Garfield Harris, a farmer, and Eva Rakes Harris, a mill worker. Gifted in mathematics from a young age, he was the first member of his family to go to college and he earned all three degrees from Virginia Tech " a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, a master's degree in engineering mechanics and a PhD in engineering science and mechanics. In 2011 he was inducted into the Virginia Tech Academy of Engineering Excellence, which is the highest honor that can be bestowed.

Charlie taught at Texas A&M University but was recruited by NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, where he spent the rest of his career, ultimately leading research operations for the entire center. Notably, NASA granted Charlie an Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal for his role in the Space Shuttle Return to Flight initiative, which uncovered the root cause of the 2000 Columbia Space Shuttle explosion "work that enabled the resumption of the Space Shuttle program. In 2007 President George W. Bush conferred on him the rank of distinguished executive in the Senior Executive Service for sustained and extraordinary accomplishment.

[Read More](#)

## In Memoriam: Cliff Feldwick, Columbia-Patuxent Rotary Club

A Live Well Lived: Cliff Feldwick, 1948-2024

Longtime Business Women's Network of Howard County member, Cliff Feldwick, passed away early January 19, 2024. Cliff was well-known as BWN's longest standing male member, a role he enjoyed thoroughly! At BWN, we will remember Cliff for his service and his friendship.

With BWN, Cliff was a very active member, attending most events, both in person and online during the pandemic. His last BWN event was the Basket Fundraiser in December. For many years, Cliff served on the BWN Scholarship Committee, actively helping to raise funds for scholarships. This ranged from bringing the 50/50 can to BWN Happy Hours in years past, handling logistics at various events, to emceeding the online bingo fundraiser during the pandemic. Cliff rarely missed a scholarship committee meeting and took very seriously the selection of scholarship recipients. However, Cliff's service extended beyond BWN with extensive volunteer work with the Rotary of Columbia Patuxent and his Unitarian congregation. [Read More](#)



### Four-Way Test

Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

### District 7620 Newsletter Team:

Bob Nelson, PDG, Chair  
Ashley Waters, District Public Image Chair

### ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

**TOGETHER** WE SEE A WORLD  
**PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION  
**TO CREATE** LASTING  
**CHANGE** ACROSS THE GLOBE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES