



A Final Word of Thanks – From Your District Governor

Dear Rotarians,

What an incredible year it has been.

As this Rotary year comes to a close, I just want to say **thank you** from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for giving so much of yourselves. Thank you for making this district what it is—resilient, inspiring, and full of heart.

Together, we've accomplished so much. From powerful service projects to meaningful collaborations, new members, fresh energy, and deeper impact—**this year has been nothing short of magical.**

A very special thanks to our Lieutenant Governors Amir and Marilyn—your dedication, leadership, and support through this journey has been extraordinary. I could not have asked for a better team to serve alongside.

To District Governor-Elect Mandy—I am so excited for all that you are going to bring to this role. Your heart, your passion, and your vision are exactly what this district needs, and I hope and pray that everyone reading this will give you the same—if not even more—love and commitment they have given me. You've got a whole community behind you.

To be honest, I never imagined I'd become District Governor—especially at this age. And yet, here I am—completely humbled by this experience. It has truly been one of the most meaningful and soul-stirring journeys of my life.

To those who have stood by the district, who have supported our mission, who showed up to meetings, rolled up their sleeves, lifted others up, and always had Rotary's best interest at heart—thank you. **You are the reason we continue to grow, to serve, and to inspire.**

For those of you heading to Calgary, I can't wait to hang out and cheer on the many presenters from our district. We've got a strong showing and even stronger stories to tell.

As we close one chapter and open the next, let's keep creating "The Magic in Rotary" as we "Unite for Good"—because together, there's nothing we can't do.

With deep gratitude and Rotary love,

Nomie Hamid

District Governor 2024–25

Rotary District 7620

Cheers!



June is Rotary Fellowships Month



Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion

Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world

- explore a hobby or profession**
- enhance your Rotary experience**



Capitol Hill Meeting with key members of Congress for continued funding polio eradication



By District Governor Nomie Hamid,

As RI District Governor I had the privilege of representing [Rotary District 7620](#) on Capitol Hill, joining fellow district members, District Governors neighbors and Rotary International leaders to advocate for continued U.S. funding in the fight to end polio.

We met with key members of Congress, including Senator Dick Durbin and Senator Mitch McConnell, who are great supporters of the work Rotary does to eradicate polio. As I walked into the US Capitol standing there I looked up and approaching me with a huge smile was Senator Cory Booker.

A team of RI officials got together to meet with other US officials to deliver a clear message: we cannot back down until every child is safe from polio. Cutting this funding now would risk undoing decades of progress.

Grateful to stand alongside champions of this cause—

Past RI Presidents Mark Maloney & John Germ, RI

Trustee Larry Lunsford, RI PolioPlus Chair Mike

McGovern, and my fellow DGs from across the region—all united in purpose and service.

Polio eradication is closer than ever, but we need your voice, your action, and your support to finish the job.



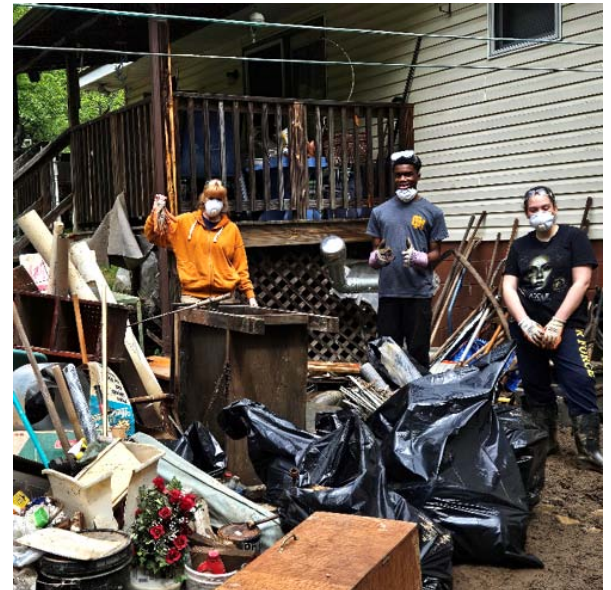
Disaster Update – Western Maryland Flash Floods

By Bob Grill, President, Disaster Aid USA; Paul Mahata, Co-Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee

District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to disasters. We are addressing disasters almost year-round within USA and internationally. Currently, we are focused on the western MD flash floods that devastated a few small towns near Cumberland. DAUSA deployed there on May 24, 25, 26 to clean flooded homes and to carry out “mucking and gutting”. More details are provided below. To support such relief work, money and supplies are always needed; and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA.

Response to Western MD Floods: The Rotary District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee is coordinating with two groups to help the victims of western MD floods:

1. Mount Airy Club (headed by Mary Jo Burkett) is leading a group of clubs to donate “buckets” full of cleaning items (the list of such items are shown at the bottom of this disaster update). Similar items were sent to Kentucky after the 2022 tornadoes, and the homeowners appreciated this generosity. Alternately, clubs and individuals can donate money for this “buckets” initiative. Point of Contact: Mary Jo Burkett Burmj@verizon.net
2. Disaster Aid USA and District Disaster Relief Committee coordinated and sent a “mucking & gutting” team to do cleanup of flooded homes in western MD. Date of deployment was during the Memorial Day weekend (May 24, 25, 26). DAUSA team leads Russ Koons and Steve Nuckles worked with several volunteers from the DC area clubs, and cleaned up homes in and around Westernport town. Those who joined from the DC area included: Dr. Bill DuBoyce, Vijay Kowtha, Patricia Brennan, Francois Ngijoi and his adult son Charles. We thank all the volunteers for spending their Memorial Day weekend in helping the victims of the western Maryland flash floods. Our sincere thanks also to the clubs which have donated money for this cause.





In order for us to continue this type of disaster relief work in the coming days and weeks, we encourage the Rotary clubs, and individual Rotarians and Rotaractors to consider donating money to DAUSA (a 501-c-3 organization, co-founded by PDG Bob Grill). Please visit the following website for online donation: www.disasteraidusa.org. Choose the option: Western MD Floods. Alternately, you may consider sending checks to: Disaster Aid USA, 9817 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham MD 20706. For any questions on our initiatives, please feel free to contact Co-Chairs: Paul Mahata (Pmahata@verizon.net) and Steve Kemp (Stevekemp77@gmail.com).

Here is the list of items needed in the flood-affected areas of western MD:

[Read More](#)

Rotary Clubs in Gaithersburg Erected "Flags for Heroes" for Memorial Day Weekend



750

American flags flew at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg over Memorial Day weekend to honor community heroes. Now in its 11th year, the "[Flags for Our Heroes](http://www.FlagsForOurHeroes.org)" exhibit featured eight-foot-tall American flags displayed in tribute to individuals who have made a difference in someone's life. The Rotary Clubs of Gaithersburg and Historic Emory Grove organized the event, with support from the City of Gaithersburg.

Southern Frederick Rotary in the June Rotary Magazine

"Students learned to become environmental "solutionists" at a Maryland Rotary club's youth summit, organizing battery and plastic recycling drives and teaching peers about growing trees. Teens at the environmental summit, the second hosted by the Rotary Club of Southern Frederick County (Urbana), joined a coalition of Interactors and other young people who volunteer to rescue uneaten school cafeteria food and compost waste. The students advocate with school leaders and state lawmakers, backed by Rotary members who support the expansion of the Lunch Out of Landfills initiative. The summit's goal is to give students skills and confidence to push for change in their communities. "Young people bring an incredible energy and urgency to climate action," says Mary Jo Anderson, the club's president.



Ellicott City Rotary in the June Rotary Magazine

Carolyn Johnson is the Chair of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers

By Arnold Grahl, Rotary Magazine

Carolyn Johnson's work with the Rotary clubs of Ellicott City, Maryland, and Machakos, Kenya, had a happy outcome after an adjustment. The two clubs wanted to use theater to teach children literacy skills. Initially they planned to have children in both countries collaborate on creating a musical, combining their contributions over the internet. The clubs had even lined up an award-winning hip-hop artist in Baltimore to help out.

"It was a really cool program, but it didn't meet the guidelines of basic education and literacy [global grants]," Johnson recalls. "I was asking things like, 'How are the kids going to be better readers or better writers? How are their math skills going to improve?' I didn't want to dampen the clubs' enthusiasm, but I knew their project wasn't going to fly the way they were talking about it."

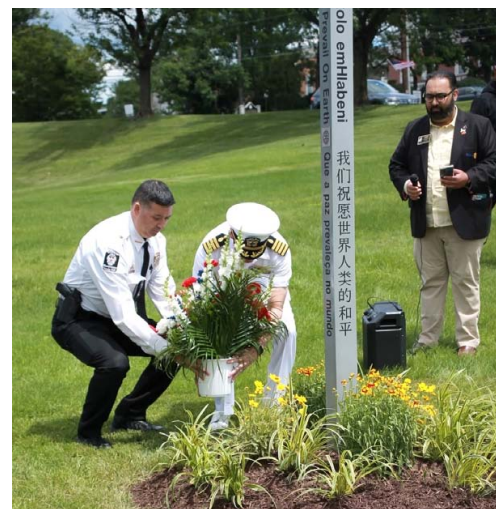
Johnson convinced the clubs to go back to their partner organization, Kenya Connect, and find a different way to reach the children in Kenya. The revised proposal provided funding so that Kenya Connect could send its mobile library to more schools that lack books. The project also funded training for the teachers and instructions for parents on how to encourage their children to read.

Abandoning the theater idea "was a really hard shift," says Ternrah Okonski, who coordinated the project for the Ellicott City club. "But we were already working with Kenya Connect and knew their goals for the year. Carolyn came in at the onset and asked all the questions that Rotary International would have asked down the road."

"It turned into a marvelous project that is working and ongoing in multiple communities," adds Johnson. "It's getting kids excited about books and about reading, and it's getting more resources into teachers' hands so that they are able to present a better quality education." Chalk up another win for Team Cadre.

Rotary Peace Pole in Gaithersburg

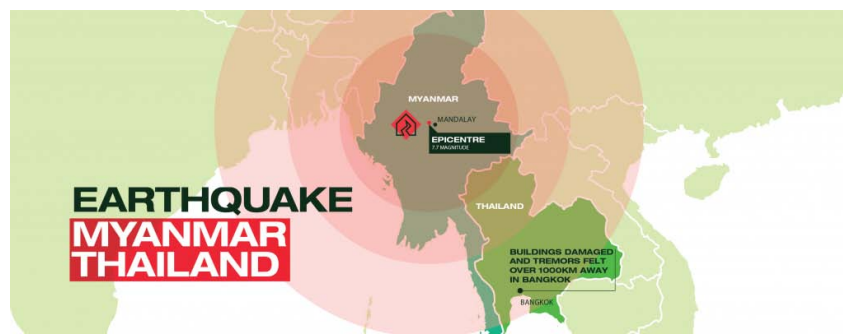
There is now a beautiful PEACE POLE near Route 355. It reads, in eight languages, "May peace prevail on earth."



DC Rotary Club is a ShelterBox PLATINUM HERO Club!



On March 28, 2025, a powerful earthquake hit Myanmar where regions were devastated across the country, causing widespread destruction. Buildings collapsed, leaving people homeless and isolated. This was a huge humanitarian crisis.



One million people were forced from their homes. Hospitals within Myanmar were overwhelmed and extreme temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius increasing the risks for communities and responders. With water supplies scarce, the threat of disease was growing.

As a result, the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C. awarded a \$2,000 disaster relief grant to ShelterBox for victims of this devastating natural disaster.

Across Myanmar, people were missing or feared dead, their homes turned to rubble. For thousands, the only option was to live in damaged homes, flee, or sleep the current conflict makes displacement within Myanmar even more dangerous. Heavy rains were further complicating relief efforts.

ShelterBox worked hard to get emergency shelter for families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the earthquake. Their team coordinated closely with local partners, Rotary networks, and other aid organizations to figure out the most effective way to respond. They focused on reaching rural areas where people were living in makeshift shelters or were completely exposed to the elements. With the support of the DC Rotary Foundation grant, aid items such as shelter repair kits, tarps, tools, mosquito nets, solar lights, and water filters made a huge impact. Ongoing conflict, limited access, and rapidly shifting conditions making this response incredibly difficult—but they made steady progress.

Additionally, if assessments determined family tents were practical, they were purchased at 550 per household.

Due to the DC Rotary Club's continuous rapid response to natural disasters and partnership with ShelterBox, the **Rotary Club of Washington** earned the designation of **PLATINUM HERO CLUB** in 2024-2025 for their generous support of ShelterBox, Rotary International's partner in disaster and conflict relief. The club's support touched many lives around the world and continues to do so.

Rotary Membership Increased 5%

In our Rotary District 7620, membership has increased 5% over last year!
The table below also shows statistics from nearby Rotary Districts.

District	Ahead (Behind) Success Track # Members	Member Gain/Loss	Member Gain/Loss	Member Gain/Loss
		2024-25	2024-25	WEEK
7600 - Southeast VA	84	148	6.90%	14
7620 - Central MD/DC	40	99	5.00%	8
7750 - Western SC	31	102	4.30%	-5
7710 - Raleigh	20	73	4.10%	-2
7610 - Northern VA	7	62	3.30%	17
7730 - Southeastern NC	6	52	3.30%	1
7305 - SW Pennsylvania	-7	46	2.50%	10
7630 - Delaware/MD	-7	33	2.40%	-5
7280 - NW Pennsylvania	-17	17	1.40%	0
7545 - West Virginia	-31	23	1.20%	8
7680 - West Central NC	-41	24	1.10%	-7
7690 - Central NC	-49	21	0.90%	-3
7720 - North Eastern NC	-55	-18	-1.50%	-2
7360 - Parts of MD, PA, WV	-90	-27	-1.30%	1
7670 - Western NC	-90	-27	-1.30%	0
7770 - Central & East SC	-128	-32	-1.00%	6
7570 - Western VA & NE TN	-149	-64	-2.20%	1
Totals	-473	532	1.60%	42

23 New Members Added to the Washington Global Rotary Club

By President Rose Cardarelli

Members of the Rotary Club Washington Global had an amazing time on May 19 as we inducted 23 new Rotarians who previously worked in international development at USAID.

Rotarians Mike McCabe (incoming president) and

Tony Bloome (past-president) 'seized the moment' to invite like-minded professionals to join our team. They enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to continue serving!

With the support of our entire Club, our District Governor [Nomie Hamid](#) and the talented Rotaractors of District 7620, it was a memorable event and true example of resilience, grit and agility in a complex and changing world.

As I conclude my year as the President of the Rotary Club Washington Global, I am filled with immense gratitude for the commitment by these great Rotarians to live our motto "Service Above Self". It has been a rewarding time dedicated to local and international programs focused on youth and education. I am looking forward to where we go from here with our new dedicated team.



Rotary Red Line Happy Hour on May 27



The [Rotary Red Line Happy Hour](#) was held on May 27th, 2025, at 5:00 PM at The Dubliner in Washington, DC. The event was hosted by the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill and it marks two years since the Red Line Happy Hour was revamped post-pandemic. Happy 2 years! A good time was had by all. Thank you to everyone that attended.

DC Rotary Club Celebrates Youth Service Month!

On Wednesday, May 7th, the DC Rotary Club invited Richard Wright Public Charter School Interactors that participated in the District Four Way Test Speech competition to their weekly luncheon in celebration of Rotary's

Youth Service Month. The students shared their experience and appreciation of the Club and shared details of their speeches to the membership. We are very proud of these students for being the only students representing Washington, D.C. and for getting out of their comfort zone, trying new experiences, and sharing their stories not many of our students around our Rotary district have gone through. The future of Rotary is truly in great hands!



JUN - DC Rotary Club Awards Scholarships to Interactors!

The DC Rotary Foundation awarded three college scholarships to three Richard Wright Public Charter School graduating

Interactors this past month. President-Elect Donnie Shaw, attended their graduation ceremony on Friday, May 16th and presented the scholarship awards to the three students. Two of the three recipients are displayed in the images below. Richard Wright Interact President, J.S. was the recipient of our largest scholarship award. The future of Rotary (and our world) is in great hands. We wish these wonderful students the best of luck in their future endeavors. Go Interact! Go Rotary!



District Business Meeting on May 21

By Kenneth Weiss

District Finances: Some attendees felt that the report presented was not detailed enough. A more detailed report will be prepared and sent to members of all clubs.

Activities in the last Rotary year: Past District Governor Delores summarized the district's main activities when she was the Governor. It was a very impressive list.

RI Council on Legislation: Of about 70 "enactments" considered by the council, 31 were adapted. Some were to the effect that the number of members needed to charter a club was reduced to 15, the districts no longer have to hold annual conferences, under certain conditions, RI can instruct a club to terminate a member, the word "training" is being changed to "learning," and **our Rotary International dues are being increased**. They will rise gradually from \$82 for the 2025-26 Rotary year to \$93 for the 2028-29 year. This was a "hard sell" for the many delegates from developing countries.

To conclude, District Governor Elect Mandy reported on **district and global grants**. The numbers were impressive but, for lack of time, she offered to send her report in writing.

Social for the Frederick County Rotary Clubs

What a fantastic time we had at the District 7620 social, celebrating Frederick County's Rotary Clubs at the beautiful [Hidden Hills Farm & Vineyard!](#) Our club soaked up every minute—reconnecting, sharing stories, and enjoying the company of fellow Rotarians who share our passion for service above self. In fact... we were



the last to leave! When you're surrounded by like-minded people who care deeply about their community, it's hard to call it a night. Grateful for the fellowship, the laughter, and the reminder that Rotary is truly family.

Rotary Club of Dupont Circle Open House!

Congratulations to the **Rotary Club of Dupont Circle** for hosting a Membership Open House on Tuesday, May 20th. They were excited to get to know their prospective members and, as a result, three new members will be joining their Club! Job well done!





DC Rotaract Officer & New Members Induction



On Sunday, May 18th, **District 7620 Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Nevy Cruz**, had the pleasure inducing the newly elected [Rotaract Club of Washington, DC](#) Board and their 18 new members (in which 11 were in attendance).



On Tuesday, May 20th, she also had the pleasure of inducting the incoming **President-Elect, Rafael Centeno**, at their last monthly Club meeting of the year.



We want to recognize soon to become Past President [Vanessa Lewis](#) for her outstanding leadership in which [DC Rotary Club](#) Past President [Filippa Lynn Holec](#) honored her with a Paul Harris Fellow! And we also want to especially thank PP Lynn for graciously hosting this event at her home. We also want to thank DGE [Mandy Warfield Granger](#) for her unconditional support of the Rotaractors and our Area 7. We know we sound like a broken record but we absolutely love sponsoring this Rotaract Club not only because LG Marilyn Nevy Cruz is a former Past President of the Club but because it's the leading community Rotaract Club in the district and our Zone. The DC Rotary Club is so proud of them and all they have accomplished this year. Job well done!



[Read More](#)

Register for District Awards and DG Installation, Sunday, July 13



Save the Date



**Installation of
District Governor**

Mandy Warfield Granger
**and
District Awards**

July
13
2025

Noon - 4 p.m.

BC Brewery, 10950 Gilroy Rd
Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Register today for the District Awards Ceremony and Installation of District Governor-Elect Mandy Warfield Granger. And don't forget to reserve your table in the House of Friendship! [Read More](#)

Message from the RI President and Rotary Foundation Chair

By Stephanie Urchick and Mark Maloney,

Every day, the generosity of donors like you changes people's lives. Whether a child gets reliable and clean drinking water, students can pursue their dreams, or a community rebuilds after a disaster, your support makes it possible.

Rotary members, donors, and our partners have allowed us to accomplish amazing things. Through Rotary Foundation global grants, clubs around the world have provided speech therapy and surgeries to correct cleft palates for 200

children in Bolivia, installed water purification systems to deliver safe drinking water in the Dominican Republic, trained neonatal workers to save infant lives in Sierra Leone, and promoted sustainable farming practices in Nepal.

So far in 2024-25, we have helped fund more than 380 district grants, 770 global grants, and 55 disaster response grants. For each grant, our members work with communities to find solutions to both ongoing issues and emerging ones. The Rotary Foundation could not support these member-led projects around the world without help from people like you.

More than just contributions to our Foundation, your donations are gifts that your fellow Rotary members will transform into projects and scholarships to keep creating positive and lasting change.

Your generosity provides momentum to every life-changing project our Foundation supports. As we approach the end of this Rotary year, we invite you to make an additional gift to continue this vital work. Together, we can keep Doing Good in the World, one project at a time. Thank you for your continued support.



Remembering Rotarian Stephen Creyke

Stephen Creyke, 84 of Saint Michaels, MD died at HeartFields Assisted Living at Easton on April 30, 2025.

Steve was born in Washington, DC on March 20, 1941, the son of Geoffrey Creyke and Blanche Virginia (Mahurin) Creyke. He attended Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, followed by a BA in Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon University and a JD from The George



Washington University. Steve worked as a general practice attorney in Bethesda, MD until his retirement in 2011. He worked in the Montgomery County States Attorney's Office early in his career, he partnered with his life-long friend John Durfee for many years, was well regarded in the legal and business community, and was active in his local Rotary Club. He and his wife, Susan moved from Chevy Chase, MD to Saint Michaels, MD in 2011. [Read More](#)

We Need Your Club's Story for the Newsletter - How to Submit

We are now using the EZstory feature in DACdb for submissions.

- [Overview of Process](#)
- [Video Walkthrough](#)

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
Sean McAlister, PDG, District Public Image Chair

ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

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