

District Governor Delores Edwards Harding's Report

District 7620 Rotarians and Rotaractors,
 Welcome to March! Winter is starting to fade, the days are getting longer, and the weather is becoming more like Spring. As District Governor, I must report that we accomplished a lot in February, and hands down, it was our busiest month of the Rotary Year thus far.

District Updates - District Website Refresh



We have updated our District Website with new Rotary images, and my District Governor Priorities for Rotary Year 2023-2024. We have also updated District Leadership information in our District and Club Database (DACdb). Grants and Foundation information has been updated, and District Conference registration portal is open and ready to receive your registration. Be sure to take a look around and don't forget the District 7620 Facebook and Instagram social media pages too for the latest posts!

RYLA 2024

Many of you were right by my side as we launched 2024 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) at the YMCA Camp Letts in Edgewater, MD. Over 100 students (our largest cohort of attendees to date) registered for this annual youth leadership camp. Several Rotary members volunteered as Group Leaders or Adult volunteers to help ensure a wonderful and safe experience for the students. Special thanks to Assistant Governor and Youth Service Chair Marilyn Nevy Cruz (RC of Washington DC), RYLA District Chair Ash Khan (RC of College Park) and Team for securing multiple Rotary Club Sponsorships for this event. The RYLA Team executed a well-organized operation! Several students have already expressed interest in returning to serve next year! Pictures are included in this month's newsletter.



Rotary International President Visit



If you have not seen or heard, our District welcomed Rotary International President Gordon R. McNally (RC of South Queensferry, Scotland), Past RI President Mark Maloney, General Secretary John Hewko, and other RI Dignitaries mid-month for a historic visit to the Rotary Club of Washington, DC. The District coordinated 2 days of activities, comprised of a "District Day" and a "DC Day." President McNally and his aides were escorted to special meetings and events happening throughout DC. He met with DC students, Interactors, Rotaractors, local leaders, the OAS, USAID, and World Bank Agency dignitaries. The President also spent time with several District 7620 and 7610 Rotary District leaders. It was a memorable

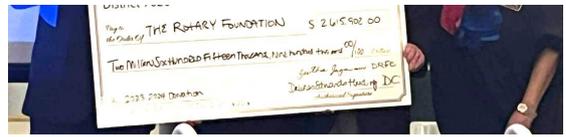
experience for all, and we extend our thanks to DC Rotarian Mark Wilson (also a Scotsman) for sending out the initial invitation for the President to visit District 7620. Extra special thanks to our District Leaders and members who helped coordinate the logistics for the visit. Both the DC and the District Planning Teams spent several months working on the official itinerary. The hard work paid off. We have lots of pictures to share!

2024 Create Hope Rotary Foundation Reception

The District hosted a beautiful Create Hope Rotary Foundation Reception on February 20th at the prestigious Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. RI President McNally was our guest of honor. District Rotary Foundation Chair Geetha Jayaram and the District leadership team worked together to plan this special, annual Foundation event. DRFC Geetha gave a report on our annual



giving to The Rotary Foundation, and recognized our top clubs contributing to the District's giving and grants culture. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a large check to RI President McNally (and Past RI President Mark Maloney) in the amount of \$2.6 million! Everyone in the room felt so proud to be a Rotarian. It was during this moment that PDG Geetha and I congratulated our Major Donors, and the many generous members of District 7620. Extra special thanks are given to Clara Montanez



(Rotary Club of Metro Bethesda), PDG Rich Carson (Rotary Club of Bethesda Chevy Chase), Zone 33 Major Gifts Officer Laurie Menzel, District 7620 DG Line, Assistant Governors, Volunteers, and the host of D7610 Rotarians and guests who came to support the event. We could not have had this event without your support. Thank you!

Black History Month Awards



The Rotary Club of Washington, DC hosted an open meeting during RI President's Visit to District 7620. Our members were able to zoom in to watch this meeting while the Area 7 Washington DC Clubs (Interact, Rotaract and Rotary) attended the in-person weekly meeting at The University Club in Washington, DC. During this meeting, "Champion" Club President Lisa Cohen took time to honor Black History Month (February), and to recognize Past President Lisa McCurdy and me for our pioneering roles in Rotary. Lisa McCurdy is DC Rotary's first African American Club President to serve in the Club's 100+ year history. As for me, I was recognized for serving as our District's first African American Woman District Governor. The beautiful awards were a surprise, and we received a standing ovation from the room. We are truly honored to

have been recognized for our achievements. Thank you DC Rotary!

Rotary Monthly Theme for March 2024

As we look to the month ahead, the Rotary International (RI) theme for this March is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. As a humanitarian organization, this theme is one of seven Areas of Focus in Rotary. As members, we are blessed in the United States to have access to clean water. We wake up each day to fresh, running water and access to clean toilets and handwashing basins within our homes. We take showers, cook our food, and wash our clothes with little concern for contamination or parasites; or the need to walk long miles to access fresh water or purification stations. Unfortunately for some countries, this is a daily struggle and Rotary is in place to offer support. Thank you to those Rotary Clubs of District 7620 who financially sponsor water purification and sanitation programs worldwide. Please read more about this area of focus and the many WASH educational programs world-wide, on the RI website: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/providing-clean-water>.



International Women's Day 2024



On March 8th, the World will celebrate International Women's Day 2024! This is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The campaign theme this year is "Inspiring Inclusion." Per the IWD 2024 website, I love the message they share with the World. It reads, "When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment." It is my hope that your Rotary or Rotaract Club will recognize women who are making their mark within our organization, and in our world.

On behalf of District 7620, I would like to acknowledge several women leaders who have gone over and above in Rotary District 7620, and continue to pave the way for women each day by giving of themselves to various causes which impact women and girls. They embrace the commitment to Inspire Inclusion and equitable treatment. Thank you Ladies!

As District Governor, I'd like to recognize several leaders for 2024 International Women's Day. Each of these women will receive standing recognition at the 2024 District Conference in Cambridge, MD. Congratulations Ladies!

1. Ila Shah (Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall)
2. Clara Montanez (Rotary Club of Metro Bethesda)
3. Nancy Riker (Rotary Club of Washington, DC)
4. Hande Apaydin (Rotary Club of Rockville)
5. Assistant Governor Linda Lymas (Rotary Club of Lexington Park)
6. Assistant Governor Marilyn Nevy Cruz (Rotary Club of Washington, DC)
7. Club President Stacy Moler (Rotary Club of Frederick)
8. Advika Agarwal (Montgomery County "MoCo" Rotaract Club)
9. Rose Carderelli (Rotary Club of Washington Global)
10. Club President Sarah Ortiz Brown (Rotary Club of Southern Harford County)
11. Nina Mezu Nwaba (Rotary Club of Pikesville-Owings Mills)
12. Pallavi Gowda (Rotary Club of Potomac Passport)
13. Elizabeth Milby (Rotary Club of Mt. Airy)
14. Carol Ann McCurdy (Rotary Club of Glen Burnie)
15. Club President Vesselina Stoytcheva (Rotary Club of Capitol Hill)

2024 Spring District Conference



Just a reminder! Don't forget to register for the District 7620 District Conference in Cambridge, Maryland on April 19-21, 2024! We have a host of activities planned including: Golf, Spa, Yoga, Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), the 4-Way Test Competition, District Club Awards, Service Projects, thought-provoking Speakers and break-out sessions, a Memorial Service, and our Annual Business Meeting. Did I mention that I will host a District Governor's Awards Ceremony? Come see who has earned recognition this year for being a "Champion" leader and/or Club in District 7620! Actual awards will be given! Hope you will join us! Register thru DACdb at: <https://www.rotary7620.org/districtconference>.

Welcome Back DES Deborah Burgess

In closing, I am pleased to report that our District Executive Secretary Deborah Burgess (Rotary Club of Baltimore) is officially back! On the mend, Deborah is resuming her part-time DES duties, and I would like to thank the host of District Leaders who volunteered to help provide coverage in her absence. Thanks Everyone for your support!
Have a wonderful and productive March 2024!

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



RI President Gordon McInally Visits Washington, D.C.!



RI President R. Gordon R. McInally had a successful visit to District 7620 on February 20 and 21, 2024. The invitation came from a fellow Scot in the Washington, D.C. Rotary Club, Mark Wilson.

His busy schedule involved visits to RI international

partners (actual and potential) with headquarters in Washington, D.C. including the OAS, USAID and the World Bank. On Tuesday evening, February 20th, **DG Delores Edwards Harding** hosted an impressive reception at the Cosmos Club in Downtown DC. RIP Gordon's impassioned speech focused on the role of the RI Foundation as the engine of Rotary support to underserved communities around the world. He also recounted some of his firsthand experiences with very poor beneficiaries in low-income countries.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, was hosted by **President Lisa Cohen** of the **Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.** and the agenda focused on youth activities supported by the Club. This included a visit to the Multicultural Career Intern Program (MCIP) at the Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC) which had received a special \$100,000 Community Service Grant in celebration of the Centennial of the Washington DC Rotary Club's Foundation.



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2024 Chesapeake President Elects Seminar

Congratulations to DGE [Naumaan Hamid](#), DLF [Chris Zabriskie](#), incoming LG's [Amir Kahn](#) and [Marilyn Nevy Cruz](#), Rotaractor [Liz Moody](#), DG [Delores Edwards Harding](#), all the AGs, facilitators, DELT line and everyone else that made [CPETS Rotary](#) for our [Rotary District 7620](#) President Elects and Emerging Leaders a success! It was a weekend filled with inspiration and **The Magic of Rotary** !



[Read More](#)

Join District Membership Team's Zoom Meeting on April 1



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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83242608572?pwd=bG9LYjB1T0FBdTkxWHZvbXJRQkxFTU09>

Meeting ID: 832 4260 8572

Passcode: 12345

6 pm - 6:30 pm Eastern Time

First Monday of each month

Frederick Rotary's Leprechaun Luau on Saturday, March 9, 2024

The Leprechaun Luau is the signature fundraising event of [The Rotary Club of Frederick](#), one of the largest and most active service clubs in the area. Established in 1920, the Rotary Club of Frederick has funded dozens of projects that have helped make our community a better place to live and work.

We are pleased to have produced LepLu for well over 10 years, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for various nonprofits in our community. We cannot thank our event attendees, sponsors, and volunteers enough!

This year's LepLu XII will be held on Saturday, March 9th, 2024 from 4-8:00pm at the [Frederick Fair Grounds](#). No outside food or alcohol is permitted.

To ask a question or request any information, please contact us at (240) 394-LUAU (5828) or use our [online contact form](#).



Annapolis Rotary's Black Tie and Diamonds Gala on March 9, 2024

The Rotary Club of Annapolis is pleased to announce that tickets are available for the annual Black Tie and Diamonds fundraiser which will be taking place on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Graduate Annapolis Hotel on West Street from 6 - 11 p.m. The proceeds from the event will benefit Charting Careers.

"We are excited to partner with Charting Careers for this year's Black Tie and Diamonds fundraiser gala," said Bob Reedy, president of the Rotary Club of Annapolis. "The Rotary Club of Annapolis members have supported this event over the years and have found deeper engagement with our non-profit partners in helping our community, especially our youth."

The event features a Surf & Turf dinner, open bar, music and dancing, both live and silent auctions, and two raffles. People who are unable to attend the event are still encouraged to purchase tickets to two separate raffles to support the Charting Careers.

[Read More](#)



Post RYLA Information & Pictures



On behalf of the RYLA 2024 Committee, we'd like to thank you and your Clubs for sponsoring students to RYLA this year. Without you and your Club's support, this would not have been possible.

Here is the photo link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KJgdRpyfcai1TWnc7>

of the pictures that were taken this past weekend.

We hope that you are able to share these pictures with your Club members and are able to invite the students your Club sponsored to

speaking about the RYLA program at one of your upcoming meetings.

Thank you for your support of the RYLA program in District 7620. We look forward to having students from your area again next year.

<https://www.rotary7620.org/youth-programs/ryla/>
#RYLA7620 #Rotary7620

Best Regards and Yours in Rotary Service,

District 7620 RYLA Committee

Metro Bethesda Rotary Awarded a \$77,696 Ukraine Basic Education & Training Grant

On February 16, 2024, Rotary International informed Metro Bethesda Rotary (mBR) that we have been awarded a \$77,696 Basic Education & Training (BEL) Rotary International (RI) global grant. The grant is called is a Hanson grant, which means neither mBR, nor District 7620, nor RI contributed any funds to this grant; the entire grant funds were paid for by the generous Hanson family grant (this family is filled with committed D7620 Rotarians including deceased PDG Robert Hanson).

This grant provides basic education and learning for 962 first grade Ukrainian children in the two war-torn regions of Kharkiv and Dnipro. The grant provides payment of schoolbooks, learning cards, classroom desks and chairs, classroom blackboards, PCs for the 8 first grade teachers, laptops for 65 remote students, and PC projectors and a large PC wall monitor for each of the 8 participating primary schools.

Current D7620 Vice Governor and PDG Barton Goldenberg from Metro Bethesda Rotary spearheaded and wrote the global grant application with the help of Iryna Odytsova, a Rotarian colleague located in Dnipro, Ukraine. Iryna is president of the Dnipro Novyi Rotary Club (she has the grey dress on in this photo taken with her club members); Iryna's club will soon commence implementation of this wonderful global grant with assistance from our grant partners.



[Read More](#)

Take \$2,000 of Medical Supplies to an Under-Resourced Country for Free!

Here's how any Rotary Club in our region that has members making a service trip can take \$2,000 of medical supplies to an under-resourced country for free!



When one organization cannot do it alone... Rotary is there. Medicine with a Mission is a Maryland-based Nonprofit whose mission is to provide hope and healing to those in need. They wanted to distribute medical supplies around the world to under-resourced countries but did not have a way to broadly distribute them. Medicine with a mission partnered with Parole Rotary and provided Parole Rotary with ten Project C.U.R.E Kits, each valued at \$2,000 of basic medical supplies. Parole Rotary is offering the kits to any Rotary Club located in the region for free on a first come, first-served basis. [Read More](#)

Disaster Update – New Command Post Trailer for Effective Deployments

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 in a timely and effective manner. A new command post trailer is being acquired by DAUSA to facilitate disaster work when local accommodation at disaster zone is scarce. We request that you and your club consider



donating money to DAUSA for the acquisition of the new trailer. See below for details.

Command Post Trailer: This multi-purpose command post trailer, when acquired, will operate not only as a command post but also as bunk house, equipment storage, kitchen, and bathroom facility for the deployment team. For the disaster-affected community, the trailer will provide a satellite phone with Star-link station and clean water distribution center. [Read More](#)

Carroll Creek Rotary's Bikes For South Africa Featured in Rotary Africa Magazine

ROTARY AFRICA | south



The first shipment of bicycles arrived at Durban Harbour last year.

Bikes for Africa

In a global community development initiative spanning three continents, the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek (D7620) has sent the first shipment of used bicycles from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, bound for the port of Durban.

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek is collaborating with the Rotary Club of Empangeni and the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region (D9370) to collect and ship 6-12 forty-foot containers of used bicycles to South Africa over a three-year period. The goal is to address poverty and improve access to education and healthcare in rural communities.

The international service project involves training local community members as bicycle mechanics, responsible for assembling, repairing and maintaining the bicycles. The shipping containers will serve as on-site storage and repair facilities. Young women will be enlisted as bicycle mechanics and receive training in basic business management skills.

Rotary clubs in Western Australia, Africa and North America, including the Carroll

Creek club, are actively involved in collecting and distributing the bicycles. Partnering with Rockville MD-based Bikes for the World, the project has collaborated with allied bicycle organisations on three continents.

Bicycles For Humanity chapters in Calgary, Alberta (Canada), Seattle, Washington (US), Charleston, South Carolina (US) and Western Australia are also part of this initiative.

The lead project coordinators, Stephen Bamonti of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in Frederick, MD US and Jonathan Moore Warner of the Rotary E-Club of the Karoo Region who is based in Frederick, MD US, are spearheading the efforts. The team also includes Andrew Killick and Fulvio Pace of the Rotary Club of Empangeni and Richard Jones of the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region.

The next shipment is anticipated to come from The Porter-Gaud in South Carolina as the initiative gains momentum in its mission to provide bicycles for transportation to school, employment and healthcare in South Africa.

22 | MARCH 2024

www.rotaryafrica.com

Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest student mentors needed!

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

The upcoming district 4-Way Test Speech contest promises to be another enriching experience, and we are seeking dedicated Rotarians like you to mentor our students. The final competition will be held during this year's District Conference. (To register for the conference, go to: <https://www.rotary7620.org/districtconference/>)

Students eagerly anticipate this competition. Some students may require mentors to guide them in selecting a speech topic, crafting their speeches, and refining their oration skills.

Will you be a student mentor?

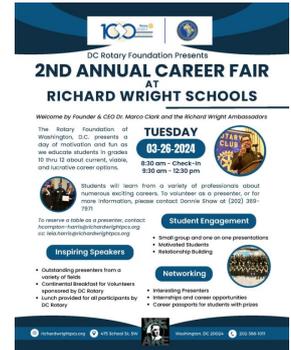
Here's how you can contribute:

1. Be a Student Mentor: Provide guidance to a student assigned to you.
2. Help Judge YouTube Videos: If needed, assist in evaluating speeches via YouTube prior to the Semifinal competition on April 6th.

[Read More](#)

2024 DC Rotary Foundation Career Fair

On behalf of the DC Rotary Club Career Fair Committee, I am pleased to announce that this year's DC Rotary Foundation Career Fair will be held on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM** at Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts located at 475 School Street SW, Washington, DC 20024. I am calling for Career Presenters! Thank you so much to those that have confirmed their participation for this year already. We truly appreciate it. [Read More](#)



DC Rotary Club Celebrates Womenâ€™s History Month



Apply for a Rotary Peace Fellowship by 15 May



Rotary offers fully funded masterâ€™s degrees and professional development certificate programs for young professionals with three to five years of experience in peace and development. They study at premier universities around the world, gaining knowledge, skills, and global networks to be effective peacebuilders. [Learn more](#) about this unique opportunity and [apply now](#) or in future years.

[APPLY NOW](#)

2024-25 Youth Advisory Council applications are now open!



Share this opportunity with your young leaders: 2024-25 Youth Advisory Council applications are now open!

Rotary's youth programs are some of the best and most vibrant in the world – engaging upwards of 500,000 young people each year! Activating youth voice to strengthen these programs is more important than ever, and President-elect Stephanie Urchick is proud to continue building on the success of previous

councils with the 2024-25 Youth Advisory Council. Youth program participants, alumni, and Rotary members are invited to serve at the international level and advise the Board of Directors of Rotary International to shape the future of our youth programs (Interact, RYLA, and Youth Exchange).

[Read More](#)

Garden Workday with DC Rotary & Rotaract Clubs and

Please join us at the following service event. All are welcomed!

What: Garden Workday with City Blossoms & DC Rotaract Club

Join City Blossoms at [Marion St Intergenerational Garden](#) or at [The Farm at Fort Stanton](#)! Tasks for this workday will include a variety of garden maintenance activities such as weeding, planting, watering, and spreading mulch.

When: Saturday, March 30, 2024

Time: 10am – 1pm

Where: [Marion St Intergenerational Garden](#) or at [The Farm at Fort Stanton](#) [Read More](#)



Rotary Peace Fellowship Application 2025



As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of Rotary's mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, their actions can have a global effect. By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship applications for the 2025-2026 academic year are now open. Candidates have until May 15, 2024 to submit applications to The Rotary Foundation.

Kindly send the information to people who may be interested. We look forward to receiving applications from eligible applicants from Rotary District 7620. [Read More](#)

2024-25 District Grant Applications

The window for grant applications to be submitted to District 7620 for Rotary Year 2024-25 is open! [Read More](#)

Student resources for UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations (UN) calls countries and individuals to act toward peace and prosperity through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Learn about the Sustainable Development Goals and how to take action to make them a reality through the UN's SDG [student resources!](#)



[LEARN MORE](#)

Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.



Thank you to everyone who joined us in making a difference! Our Rotaract Club of Washington DC volunteered with food Justice DMV to serve 78 immigrant families in the DMV area with essential food supplies. Together, we're making a tangible impact in our community and spreading kindness far and wide. Let's continue to uplift and support each other. #CommunityService #RotaractDC #Volunteering #rotary #dc

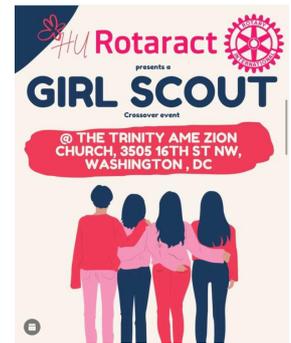


February Monthly Meeting & Happy Hour

[Read More](#)

Rotaract Club of Howard University

We love a day filled with activities alongside the Girl Scouts at Trinity AME. Thank you girls for having us we had so much fun and a big WELL DONE for earning your animal badge !!!



We always have the best time serving at Christ House! Thank you again Christ House and Chef Micah for having us.

[Read More](#)

Rotaract Club of George Washington University



DC Rotaract Inducts 7 New Members!



We're thrilled to welcome 7 incredible individuals to the Rotaract Club of Washington, DC! Our recent brunch event, attended by esteemed @rotarydistrict7620 @rotary7620 @drotaryclub leaders, marked the induction of these passionate changemakers into our vibrant community.

Their dedication to service and commitment to making a difference in our community inspire us all.

Join us in congratulating and welcoming our newest members! Let's continue to #ServiceAboveSelf and make a positive impact together.



[Read More](#)

Minneapolis chosen for 2029 convention

Minneapolis-St. Paul is the winner of a provisional bid to hold the Rotary International Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 26-30 May 2029. [Read more](#) and [register for this year's convention](#) in Singapore.



In Memoriam: John Gorman

John "Buz" S. Gorman, Esq., loving husband, father, friend and successful government affairs and General Counsel, passed away peacefully on February 5, 2024 surrounded by his two children, John Patrick (JP), and Andrew, wife Kathy and his beloved dog Einstein, at his home in Arlington, VA after courageously battling brain cancer. Buz was 63.



Born in Washington, DC, on February 10, 1960, Buz grew up in Bethesda Maryland with his parents, JR "Pat" and Marge, siblings Kathy, Susan and Mickey Gorman. As a child he was active in the Boy Scouts and achieved the rank of Life Scout where he hiked Philmont during his scouting adventures. He was an avid [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
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
TO **CREATE** LASTING
CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES