



District Governor - Rene' Laws
District 7610
Service Above Self

Contact René

CONNECT D7610



D7610 WEBSITE

D7610 NEWS



UPDATE ON CLUB AND BOARD VISITS

To date, I have just **10 clubs** remaining to visit. My last Club and Board Meeting will be on March 27. Every visit has been inspirational. I have been welcomed enthusiastically. I applaud your focus and commitment to the many projects you have on your plate to accomplish.

Thank you for all that you are doing this year for your club, the district, and Rotary

MESSAGE FROM DG - RENÉ LAWS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: "It is celebrated annually in March. It started as Women's Day, which was celebrated on February 28, 1909, by a group of Manhattan socialists and suffragists in honor of the one-year anniversary of the garment strike led by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union."

"In the United States, Women's History Month has been observed since 1987. It is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States."

"This year, Women's History Month will take place from Friday, March 1 to Sunday, March 31, 2024. The theme for 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion," recognizing women who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from individuals' lives and institutions."

Pamela Montgomery, the District 7610 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair, 2023-2024 prepared an article highlighting Women's History in Rotary. I am sharing it to celebrate how Rotary International supports women in leadership and always promotes service above self.

Women's History and Rotary: A Story of Courage and Change

Introduction

Women's history is a story of resilience, courage, and transformation. It weaves together the narratives of countless women who defied societal norms, shattered glass ceilings, and left indelible marks on the fabric of time. Within this vibrant tapestry, Rotary International emerges as a stage where women step into leadership roles, creating lasting change. Let us explore this

International.

SIDE NOTE: I will be attending the Chesapeake PETS, Presidents Elect Training Seminar from Feb 29 - Mar 2. This is a multi-district experience, held annually.

Keynote speakers include:

Barry Rassin, Chair Rotary Foundation
Patrick Eakes, RI Director Elect
Tiffany Ervin, Past District Governor

Rotary District 7610 Strategic Planning



Do you want to influence where District 7610 is going? **We need your club members to help us:**

- Identify the District's strengths and challenges
- Identify the District's opportunities
- Set the District's strategic priorities

Register (links provided below) to participate in one of four District Strategic Planning Listening Sessions where you can provide input for developing the District's Strategic Plan. This plan will look out into the future for 3-5 years.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The District's Strategic Planning Committee requests that you participate in one of the four listening sessions listed below. The sessions have been scheduled for different locations, dates, and times to provide options for participating. Please check the calendar on DACdb or the District Website to register and attend the listening session that is most convenient for you.

Thursday, 7 March 2024, 5:30-8:30 PM

Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center
3610 Blenheim Blvd.
Fairfax, VA 22030
<https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/Register/Index.cfm?EventID=77730997>

relationship.

Rotary Clubs: A Beacon of Service

Founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, Rotary International began as a fellowship of professionals committed to service above self. Its spirit transcended gender, and as Rotary expanded globally, women found their place within its ranks.

Trailblazers in Rotary: Women Who Made History

1. Sylvia Whitlock: The First Female Rotary Club President

In 1987, Sylvia Whitlock etched her name in history as the first female Rotary Club president. Leading the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, she shattered barriers. Her presidency symbolized more than a title; it was a beacon for women worldwide. Whitlock's commitment to community service resonated with Rotary's core values.

2. Jennifer Jones: The First Female President of Rotary International

In 2022, Jennifer Jones made history as the first female president of Rotary International. In leading Rotary International, she understood the importance of communicating the new realities of the 21st century. She championed the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion and the need for diversity to be reflected in leadership.

3. The Rotary Foundation: Empowering Women Globally

The Rotary Foundation became a catalyst for change.

Its programs uplifted women across continents:

- Rotary Peace Fellowships: Empowering women to resolve conflicts and promote peace.
- Scholarships: Enabling women to pursue higher education.
- Polio Eradication: Women played pivotal roles in vaccinating children against polio.

Challenges and Triumphs

Women faced hurdles within Rotary. The 1989 Council on Legislation officially admitted women as members and opened the doors for women to serve in all capacities in Rotary worldwide. It was a watershed moment—a testament to their persistence.

Today and Tomorrow

Women continue to lead Rotary clubs, districts, and global initiatives. They amplify Rotary's impact, from clean water projects to literacy campaigns. Their legacy exemplifies the Rotary International motto: "Service

Thursday, 7 March 2024, 5:30-8:30 PM

Farmington Country Club Ballroom

1625 Country Club Circle,
Charlottesville, VA 22901

<https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/Register/Index.cfm?EventID=77731366>

Saturday, 9 March 2024, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Fairfax County Mason District
Government Center, Room 20**

6507 Columbia Pike,
Annandale, VA 22003

<https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/Register/Index.cfm?EventID=77725065>

Saturday, 9 March 2024, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. George's Episcopal Church

Faulkner Hall (As you stand on the street,
facing the church, it is the small building
on the left)

905 Princess Anne Street,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

<https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/Register/Index.cfm?EventID=77731858>

Above Self.”

Conclusion

As we celebrate women's history month, let us honor the women who dared to dream within Rotary's embrace. Their courage and resilience challenge us. Their stories echo across generations, inspiring us to build a world where every woman's voice matters—a world Rotary envisioned long ago.

***Article Submitted by Pamela Montgomery
District 7610 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Committee Chair, 2023-2024***



Women Leaders in Rotary: AG Theresa Coates Ellis, President Pamela Montgomery, Past President Jo Ellen Benson at Woodbridge Rotary Club New Officers Installation 2019-2020

DG Rene'

NEWS & EVENTS

DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS:

The District News page serves as a comprehensive platform to keep members and the public informed about the district's collective efforts in service, fellowship, and community development. Read the latest news now!

CALENDAR

DISTRICT CALENDAR:

The District Calendar page provides a detailed schedule of all upcoming events, activities, and important dates within the district. Stay in the loop with our District's calendar!

FOUNDATION NEWS

TRF NEWSLETTER:

Stay informed with TRF Newsletter, offering the most recent updates on humanitarian grants, World Peace Fellowships, Global Grant Scholarships, Polio Plus Society, and Vocational Training Teams. Discover the impactful projects and initiatives supported by TRF.

WELCOME NEW ROTARIANS!

Members who have joined District 7610 Clubs since 2/1/2024

As of February 1, 2024, we have **17** new members in District 7610
WELCOME!

Member Name	Start Date	Club	Sponsor
Wawner, James T. (JIM)	2/1/2024	Tappahannock	Mark Chinn
Contee, Angela (DR ANGELA CONTEE)	2/1/2024	Woodbridge	Dave Kent
Mays, Kathryn Dee (KATHRYN)	2/1/2024	Dulles International Airport	Richard E. McCary
Sinnott, James W (JAMES)	2/1/2024	Dulles International Airport	Georgia Graves Rick McCarty
Ping, Rodney William (RODNEY PING)	2/6/2024	Orange	William Harrison Hager
Decatur, David P. (DAVE)	2/7/2024	Stafford	Sandy Duckworth
Kirkland, Nicolas (NICK)	2/8/2024	Gainesville-Haymarket	Christopher Robinson
Flores, Carmen (CARMEN)	2/8/2024	Gainesville-Haymarket	Christopher Robinson
Marhoum, El Mehdi (EL MEHDI)	2/8/2024	Broadlands-Dulles South	
Robl, Robert D. (ROBERT D.)	2/9/2024	Blue Ridge Mountains	
Moore, Charles (CHARLES)	2/15/2024	Fredericksburg	
Crew, Darren (DARREN)	2/16/2024	Bailey's Crossroads	Lily Pauline Elkins Rosenstein
Al Banna, Zahr (Zahr)	2/16/2024	Bailey's Crossroads	
Goldwater, John (JOHN)	2/20/2024	Manassas	Kenny Loveless
Kirby, Tim (TIM)	2/20/2024	Manassas	
Thiel Siokos, Kristen (KRISTEN)	2/26/2024	Warrenton	
Cannava, Kevin R II (KEVIN)	2/26/2024	Fairfax	Barry Gordon Rachel McQuillen

SUBMIT YOUR CLUB'S NEWS

Your contributions are valuable in keeping our Rotary community informed and engaged!
[CLICK HERE](#) to get in touch with the District Newsletter Editor.

Rotary International District 7610
www.rotary7610.org | (540) 370-0300
Post Office Box 4142, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22402

