

District Conference 2023



Photo from Facebook, Dustin Keith (Thank you!)

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March Is Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Month

By Billi Black

Over 750 million people in the world lack access to safe water and more than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. At least 3,000 children die each day from diseases caused by unsafe water.

When we talk about the need for clean water and sanitation, our immediate thoughts go to those who live in underdeveloped countries around the world, but there are communities in our own districts that have a real need for clean water.

During the month of March, or anytime throughout the year, clubs and districts can promote our commitment to providing clean water and sanitation and encourage others to join us in our efforts. One way to raise awareness is hosting a "Walk for Water". For more information on the need for clean water, as well as resources on how to host a "Walk for Water" [click here](#), or go to <https://www.watermission.org/get-involved/walk-for-water>

Membership

Chair [Anna Lester](#)

July 1, 2022 | 2,898

February 28, 2023 | 2,930

Net Gain: 32

Conference Highlights

Walk to End Polio on Saturday at District Conference raised **\$1,920.00!** “Thank you to all of those at District 7570 Conference this past weekend who either donated to our Walk to End Polio or did the walk with us as a group on Saturday. It was a beautiful day to End Polio! We raised funds through the Raise for Rotary website and also received a few checks and some cash. Altogether, we raised \$1,920 to be tripled by the Gates Foundation to \$5,760! Thank you!”



More Conference photos and highlights to come. Thank you to the **506 participants** who came to and participated in District Conference!

Club Happenings & Stories

During what was a “snow day” off school for Science Hill High School, four student members of the school’s “Model United Nations” and one of their mothers, teamed up with members of the **Tri-Cities Rotary Club** to serve our community. Together, they packed 228 backpack bags for Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tenn. during the Monday lunch hour known as Tri-Cities Rotary’s “Power of One Hour.” “We were delighted to have the students join us to learn more about Rotary’s mission of service above self,” said Tri-Cities Rotary President-Elect Mary Ellen Miller. “This gave the students an opportunity to engage with our members and learn about different vocations, as they volunteered together.” Student volunteers were able to help other students, as backpack bags are provided to schools around the region. The food helps during weekends and holidays when school meals are not available. “I learned that Rotary serves others locally and around the world, said Science Hill Junior Molly Wilson. “This was a fun connection for our Model UN team. It felt good to serve our community, and we were all amazed how many bags we could pack in only one hour!” The Tri-Cities Rotary Club meets Mondays at noon at Northeast State. The second Monday of each month the club serves at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tenn. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information visit Tri-Cities Rotary on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Feed10Million Efforts

By: [Nick Morris](#) | Rotarians! You are doing great things to feed our communities both locally and internationally. **District 7570 has contributed 795,471 meals!**

How to log your meals:

<https://www.rizones33-34.org/feed10million-initiative/>

Use the linked form to log the estimated meals provided during each feeding service project. The data provided below will help Zones 33 & 34 track our progress. Be sure to share photos from your event using the hashtag #Feed10Million on Facebook. **NOTE:** If you need to correct a previous entry, DO NOT submit a new entry. Please send an email to feed10million@rotaryshares.org so we can manually update the record.

CART

[Susan Phillips](#), Chair

CART meetings and presentations are now available on the multi-district calendar! Come join us! CART is a non-profit organization 501c3, so your contribution is tax deductible. You can use the portal or contact Susan Phillips if you have questions.



Learning Center

There are so many opportunities to learn more about Rotary, how you can be involved, and more! Have you visited the Learning Center? Click [HERE](#) (you will need a Rotary.org login).

Public Image Master Class

Below is the schedule for the "Master Classes" and "Office Hours". These sessions are open to all district leaders, club leaders, and club



The **Rotary Club of New Market** was recently honored to have as its guest speaker Ms. Laura Short. Laura is the sponsor for the Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) Partnerships for Eternity (PFE) Program. The Partnering for Eternity (PFE) Scholarship Program has been helping cultivate relationships between mentors and students at Seventh-day Adventist academies and elementary schools since 2006.

The goal of the program is for students and mentors to create intergenerational relationships and experience the blessing of service. In the process, students receive scholarship for their tuition and mentors receive the gift of friendship and ability to bestow their knowledge and skills on to a younger generation, hopefully making an impact for years to come. For more information please see <https://www.sffcfoundation.org/>



Empowering Girls and Women: A Rotary Initiative

Empowering Girls and Women was an initiative started by PRIP Shekhar Mehta during his year (2021-2022). President Jennifer Jones continued his work, recognizing that as we empower women to grow into their full potential, we are creating a new pathway for membership growth in our organization. In a recent visit to the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda, Jones

members. All sessions will be held at 6:00 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

March 28, 2023 Master Class #4 -
How Membership Retention and PI
Work Together

June 27, 2023 Master Class #5 -
Running a Digital Marketing Campaign

To attend any of these sessions, you can [click here](#) or go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89759173311?pwd=Tzlvd09yNU13VDY2UitFN3RZWnhadz09>

Rotary Legacy Campaign



To learn more: PDG [Tim Carter](#),
District Rotary Foundation Chair

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

View the Calendar of Events [HERE](#).

- March 30 – April 1, 2023: Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) | Location: Inn @ VT, Blacksburg, VA.
- April 29, 2023: District Legislative Assembly (DLA): via Zoom
- June 19, 2023 @ 5:30pm: Reception & Dinner - Installation of DG 2023/24 Paula Alston | Blacksburg Country Club, Blacksburg, VA

Don't forget to send your stories, photos, or other submissions to Cora to be included in future Informer's and on the District Facebook page.

cgnegy@vt.edu

reflected on what this initiative means to her and to Rotary. She writes in her letter in the February *Rotary* magazine, “As I walked across a school campus at the settlement with a teacher, she shared with me the dire statistics on girls’ education. Most don’t get through grade school. Many are sold into child marriage to pay for food for their families. As I looked around at these young girls, I was gutted.

Our work with empowering girls and women is much more than creating equity – sometimes, it’s about health or education. Other times it’s about providing safety. Regardless of the path, it’s always about basic human rights.

We can do more to empower girls and women, and we can expand how we share the progress Rotary members and our partners have made toward this goal.

There is no shortage of inspiring examples of our work, from interest-free microcredit loans for women in Nigeria, to projects in India that provide girls menstrual hygiene products. Hundreds of projects are taking place across all Rotary areas of focus and are making a meaningful and often lifesaving difference. Together, we can address the needs and inequities that girls throughout the world face daily. But we must also monitor the impact of these projects and create awareness of Rotary resources and subject matter experts, including Rotary Action Groups, The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, Rotary Peace Fellows, and others.

It is especially important that we tell the stories of our initiatives that have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls. This last point is near and dear to my heart. This means sharing our stories on social media, through local news outlets, in this magazine, and wherever we can inspire others.”

Together, we can EMPOWER GIRLS.



ShelterBoxes response in Turkey & Syria

ShelterBox Update: Additional earthquakes have shaken Southern Turkey in the Antakya area. Please see this link for an update

<https://youtu.be/OhX4k3UOWaE>

With winter temperatures and so many displaced from their homes, shelter is critical. Please consider a donation of any amount to

www.shelterboxusa.org

If you have questions or would like to have a presentation at your club, please contact Christy Brown, RC of Blacksburg | ShelterBox USA Ambassador at info@onevillage.us

More photos from District Conference:



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