



Message from District Governor Nomie Hamid

Dear Rotarians,

As we step into March, we focus on **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Month**, recognizing that access to clean water and proper sanitation is essential for health, dignity, and a thriving community. Around the world, millions still struggle with these basic needs, and even small efforts—whether supporting global clean water initiatives or taking action in our own communities—can make a significant impact.

At the same time, our commitment to **peace** remains an ongoing effort. Peace is not confined to a single month or event; it is a way of life, a continuous choice we make through our words, actions, and service. By fostering understanding, teaching younger generations about kindness and conflict resolution, and leading with compassion, we contribute to a more peaceful world.



MARCH



This month is also special for many as it marks the beginning of **Ramadan**, a time of reflection, gratitude, and giving. To all those observing, I wish you a **blessed and peaceful Ramadan**. May this holy month bring you and your loved ones peace, joy, and fulfillment.

Each of us has the power to create change, and when our individual efforts are combined, they ripple outward in ways we may never fully see. Whether it's helping those in need of clean water, promoting peace through daily acts of goodwill, or supporting one another in times of reflection and faith, every step matters. Let's continue working together to make a lasting difference.

**Yours in Service,
DG Nomie**

Rotary International Celebrated 120th Anniversary on February 23, 2025

In February 1905, Chicago lawyer Paul Harris felt a void despite his successful law practice. He missed the camaraderie of his small Vermont town and invited three acquaintances to meet regularly for friendship. This first meeting led to the formation of "Rotary," named for their rotating meeting locations.

Rotary grew rapidly, spreading fellowship, networking, and community service worldwide. More than a century later, Rotary remains a powerful force for human connection, proving that personal connections endure in an increasingly online world.

Let's honor Paul Harris' vision and keep fostering community spirit.



Celebrating International Women's Month



We are celebrating the start of Women's History Month by highlighting the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.'s women Presidents! Women's History Month is an annual observance to highlight the contributions of women to events in history and

Women Leaders of the Rotary Club of Washington, DC



contemporary society.

Rotary Club of Annapolis Installs 25th Little Free Library

The Rotary Club of Annapolis recently installed its 25th Little Free Library (LFL) at the Allen Apartments complex just off Forest Drive, with two easily accessible, enclosed library boxes, one for adults and another installed at a lower height for children. [Read More](#)



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Held February 15-17, 2025



Over two and a half days, RYLA students participated in indoor and outdoor team challenges and recreational activities, expanded personal development by learning more about problem-solving, communication, leadership, risk-taking, and teamwork. For RYLA 2025, the District 7620 RYLA team was proud to collaborate with [Rotary District 7610](#), our neighbors in northern and central Virginia.

Disaster Recovery from Hurricane Helene Floods at Greeneville, TN



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. Our District leaders approved a DDF project to conduct disaster recovery from Hurricane Helene floods in the area of Greeneville, Tennessee (adjacent to Asheville, North Carolina). This project has started, and it will repair and rebuild 10 damaged homes which had gone through "mucking, gutting, drying, and cleaning by Disaster Aid USA in October-November 2024. To support such relief work, money and supplies are always needed, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. Please see below more details on this DDF project. We are also sharing a letter of appreciation from the District Governor (RID 7570), thanking our District 7620 for approving the DDF project and recognizing the work of our Disaster Relief Committee. [Read More](#)



February 27 Red Line Happy Hour



A good time was had by all the the February Red Line Happy Hour. Thank you [DC Rotary Club](#) for hosting and PP [Jennifer Lyn Hara](#) for helping coordinating ! [Read More](#)

Rotary Club of Olney Hosts CPR/AED Training, Expands Lifesaving Efforts for the Community

The Rotary Club of Olney, in partnership with Rescue One, hosted its annual CPR/AED training on Saturday, February 22, at Oakdale Church's Brigham Hall. This year's session included a certification course for the first time, with 28 local residents, from teenagers to seniors, learning critical lifesaving skills.

The Rotary Club has been committed to improving emergency preparedness in the community. In 2016, the club launched an initiative to install 24-hour accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at key shopping centers in Greater Olney. So far, four AEDs have been mounted outside Giant Food, Harris Teeter, The Green Turtle, and the Ashton Shopping Center, with four additional locations planned. Each AED installation costs \$2,000, covering the first year of maintenance, after which shopping center management assumes the ongoing upkeep.

Among the participants in Saturday's training were several local high school students. The three-hour session provided attendees with official certification cards upon completion. [Read More](#)



Area 10 Super Bowl Fellowship and 50/50 Raffle for Polio Plus

By Bea Carson

Rotarians from all over the area joined together in fellowship for camaraderie and a little bit of fund raising for this year's Super Bowl. Area 10 of District 7620 brings together Southern Anne Arundel County and more than 230 Rotarians in five clubs: Annapolis, Parole, South Anne Arundel, Upper Marlboro and Rotaract.

The question came up several times – How long have you been doing this. In a sense it goes back to before the turn of the century.

[Read More](#)



Washington Global Rotary Club Joins Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)

Our club has officially become a Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) Peacebuilder Club!

We are excited to join the network of dedicated clubs devoted to peacebuilding and being a resource to Rotarians, Rotary clubs and districts by supporting the peace work of Rotarians worldwide. Learn more about RAGFP here: <https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/>

Westminster Rotary Club transforms the flag-court area at historic Ellsworth Cemetery



[By Sherry Greenfield - excerpted from the Carroll County Times]
 The flag court at Westminster's historic Ellsworth Cemetery has been cleaned and spruced up thanks to members of the Rotary Club of Bonds Meadow. The Westminster club learned that the flag court, in the 148-year-old cemetery on Leidy Road, desperately needed a transformation. "Over the years weather, vandals, and general neglect caused historic tombstones to be damaged or destroyed, the flag court to be overgrown with weeds, and the wooden fence to be unsightly," David A. Highfield, a charter member of the club stated in an email. "The Rotary Club members, along with other service organizations and Westminster citizens, began to care for the cemetery. "Rotary members cleaned up the flag court, donated a new flag pole, and stained the fences," he said.

[Read More](#)

2025 DC Rotary Foundation Career Fair

DC Rotary Foundation-sponsored Career Fair at Richard Wright on February 25, 2025, was a hit! President-elect Donnie Shaw and his DC Rotary Club team did an outstanding job once again!



Ellicott City Rotary Dedicated a Bench in Tiber Park to Fernand Tersiguel



During the holidays the Ellicott City Rotary held a ceremony to dedicate a bench in Tiber Park to Fernand Tersiguel, the longtime restaurateur who died in 2020. Many Rotary members and family were in attendance. For many years the Rotary held their monthly meetings at Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant and Fernand was a great supporter of the Ellicott City community. *[Excerpted from the Baltimore Sun, January 8, 2025]*

International Yachting Fellowship Chesapeake Bay

By Alicia Hannon

As the newest member of the IYFR Chesapeake Bay Squadron, I am thrilled to express how awesome an experience this past year has been! I learned about IYFR during my first Rotary International Convention in Houston, TX in 2022. I had been a Rotarian for just one year as I excitedly explored all that the House of Friendship had to offer. This was where I learned about Rotary fellowships. I first chatted with the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (IFFR), and I couldn't believe how welcoming they were. I did not own an airplane and had no experience actually flying a plane, although I did enjoy traveling by plane. In the midst of our conversation I was whisked away to an airplane hangar by motorcycle, where Rotarian Darryl E. Smith (then Assistant Area Governor of the Rotary Club of Space Center in Houston) pulled out his plane! In a few minutes we were airborne! It was a short flight, we quickly returned back to the House of Friendship, and it was a memory of a lifetime. My next thought was, "Wow! I need to find the yachting fellowship!" [Read More](#)



2025 DC Past Presidents Dinner



The annual [DC Rotary Club](#) Past Presidents' dinner was held on February 7, 2025, and a good time was had by all! Past Presidents and current and incoming leadership were present.

Rotary Club of Annapolis Benefits from USNA Stadium Concessions

The Rotary Club of Annapolis has a long history with the United States Naval Academy's Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium – it is the long-standing venue of the club's famous annual crab feast. Since 2021, the club has also been the beneficiary of staffing concessions at football games, USNA graduation, and the Military Bowl taking place at the stadium, bringing in funds to support club activities and to aid local and international grant programs. [Read More](#)



DC Rotaract Past President Spoke at Rotary International Assembly



Shoutout to [Rotaract Club of Washington, DC](#) Past President @ahmedtally for being selected from our entire [Rotary Zones 33/34](#) to present at the [Rotary International](#) Assembly this week. This is a one in a life time opportunity, every single Rotary dignitary is there. RI PE [Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo](#) was a former Rotaractor himself so he specifically requested one Rotaractor from each Zone to attend and our very own DC Rotaractor was selected! Congratulate him when you see him!

Howard University Rotaract Celebrated Valentine's Day

Happy Valentine's Day! Thank you to all who came by our table to help us spread some love on this special day. We took your treats down to Christ House where we spent some quality time with the residents and handed out the goodies! Remember that Valentine's Day isn't the only time to share in the love, so leave a little wherever you go!



DISCON 2025 Save the Date



For more information, visit our 2025 DisCon page at <https://www.rotary7620.org/discon-2526/>


Save the Date for Annapolis Rotaract's Rock the Dock

The Annapolis Rotaract Foundation, Inc. is excited to announce their 14th Annual Rock the Dock! The event will be held at the Annapolis Maritime Museum on Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 6 – 10 p.m. [Read More](#)

Programs of Scale Grant Competition Application and Webinar

Programs of Scale

Backed by evidence.
Strengthened through partnership.



The application for the 2026 Programs of Scale award is open!

Learn more about how to apply and join us for a webinar in March to get extra tips.

The US\$2 million Programs of Scale grant may be awarded each year to a member-led, evidence-based program that is ready to expand over three to five years to increase its impact in one or more of Rotary's [areas of focus](#). Applicants should be [qualified](#) Rotary and Rotaract clubs and districts that have long-term plans to work with other organizations to expand programs that are already successful.

<https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/apply-grants/programs-scale-grants-application-process>

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
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
TO **CREATE** LASTING
CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES