



Club Meeting

Susitna
Meets at Everett's
Restaurant at the
Mat-Su Resort
1850 East Bogard
Road
Wasilla, AK 99654
Time: Wednesday at
06:00 PM

Speakers

**September 11,
2024**

[Dr. Randy Trani](#)
Matanuska-Susitna
Borough School
District

**September 18,
2024**

[Todd Smolden](#)
Governor Dunlevy
Education Plan

**September 25,
2024**

[Club Assembly](#)
[followed by a board](#)
[meeting](#)

October 02, 2024

[Mat-Su Candidates](#)
Joint meeting with
the Greater Wasilla
Chamber of

Sep 11th: Dr. Randy Trani, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Commerce for a candidate forum ahead of the November elections.

October 09, 2024

Louisa Branchflower, Onward & Upward
Onward and Upward offers a variety of programs that educate and engage participants to step outside of their comfort zones to discover their strengths.

October 16, 2024

Brenda Sheldon
District Governor Presentation

October 16, 2024

Brenda Sheldon
DG Official Visit

October 23, 2024

Isaac Smolden
My House Production Team

October 30, 2024

Club Assembly followed by a board meeting
TRF - upcoming fundraiser

December 18, 2024

Club Holiday Party & Officer Elections

January 29, 2025

Club Assembly followed by a board meeting

February 26, 2025

Club Assembly followed by a board meeting

March 02, 2025

Iditarod Restart Party - March 2nd, 2025

Bring your friends and family to cheer on the mushers as they start their race to Nome and raise money to help End Polio at the same time!

March 26, 2025

Club Assembly followed by a board meeting

April 23, 2025

Club Assembly followed by a board meeting

May 21, 2025

OFFSITE Service



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wednesday, September 11, 6:00pm

Meet in Person at

Everett's at The Mat-Su Resort

Via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5415605940?pwd=ZFJWk1lZbnJSTHpaOGY1KzErbTlVdz09>

Dr. Randy Trani, born in Denver, Colorado, but raised in Cordova, Alaska, embodies the resilience and determination of what is commonly found in Alaska. Experiences of poverty and childhood homelessness marked his early life, yet it was his unwavering belief in the transformative power of education that set the trajectory for his adventurous career in K-12 education.

After eight years teaching across all grade levels in small Alaskan school districts, Dr. Trani transitioned to larger suburban and urban schools in Oregon, where he taught science courses. In 2004, he assumed the role of principal at Corbett Schools in Corbett, Oregon, later advancing to the position of Superintendent from 2009 to 2019. Under his leadership, Corbett Middle School earned the prestigious designation of the only School to Watch in Oregon, while Corbett High School gained national recognition as one of the top public high schools in the country, acknowledged by Newsweek, The Washington Post, and US News & World Reports.

Dr. Trani's trend for high academic achievement for students continues today in Alaska. In 2020, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (MSBSD) welcomed Dr. Trani as its Superintendent, and assigned a difficult task; to deliver the district to academic excellence during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Trani's decisive leadership ensured that MSBSD remained primarily open, earning commendation from the Mat-Su Health Foundation for its "monumental service to our community."

Under Dr. Trani's direction, MSBSD achieved its highest three-year combined graduation rate since 2001, a testament to his commitment to student success. Furthermore, the district saw a remarkable increase in Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings and participation, with MSBSD boasting the most CTE course offerings and students statewide. Additionally, students under Dr. Trani's guidance excelled in advanced coursework, completing the most rigorous academic programs and earning the highest number of college credits through advanced coursework in the district's history. He often reminds staff and board members to continue to set high expectations as "all boats rise and fall on the same tide."

Dr. Randy Trani's journey from humble beginnings to educational leadership demonstrates the profound impact of dedication, perseverance, and a steadfast belief in the life-changing power of education. His commitment to student success and academic excellence continues to shape the future of our community and beyond.



Dr. Randy Trani, Superintendent

Update on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Sep 14: TRF Fundraiser Planning Meeting



Planning meeting for the
Rotary Foundation (TRF) Fundraiser
Saturday, September 14th
10:00am

Want to be involved in organizing the Valley Rotary clubs' annual joint TRF fundraiser this

Project

Cleanup the Big Lake Library Grounds

May 28, 2025

Club Assembly followed by a board meeting

Planning for the Lil Su Classic River Cleanup & BBQ

June 18, 2025

Changing of the Guard followed by a board meeting

Aaron Coman passes the gavel onto Kim Erickson

Events

September 10th
Josh The Otter Classroom Presentations 2024-2025

November 9th
The Rotary Foundation Fundraiser

March 2nd
Iditarod Restart Party and End Polio Now fundraiser

Speaker: Iditarod Restart Party - March 2nd, 2025

Subject: Bring your friends and family to cheer on the mushers as they start their race to Nome and raise money to help End Polio at the same time!

In This Issue

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Fundraiser Planning Meeting

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Josh the Otter - Fall 2024 School Presentations

Sep 21st: Interact - Planning to form a new club

Foundation



Rotary clubs annual joint fundraiser this fall? Then come to the next Foundation Fundraiser meeting on Saturday, September 14th, to discuss the upcoming event.

The meeting will be held at 570 S. Knik St., Wasilla, AK 99654.

This year's fundraiser will take place on Saturday, November 9th, at Evangelo's restaurant. All Rotarians are encouraged to both donate items for the silent and/or live auction as well as attend this fun event!

Questions?

Josh Waisanen

Susitna Rotary Club Foundation Chair
(425) 350-5729

Sep 18th: Todd Smolden, Director of the Mat-Su Valley Office of Gov. Dunleavy

Todd Smolden, Director of the Mat-Su Valley office of Gov. Michael Dunleavy
Governor Dunleavy's Education Plan

Wednesday, September 18, 6:00pm

Meet in Person at

Everett's at The Mat-Su Resort

Via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5415605940?pwd=ZFJWKTlZbnJSTHpaOGY1KzErbTlVdz09>



Josh the Otter - Fall 2024 School Presentations

Deb Waisanen has organized several Josh the Otter kindergarten presentations over the next few weeks. Volunteers are needed to assist!

Fri September 20th 12:50pm: **Goose Bay Elementary**

Fri September 27th 1:05pm: **Tanaina Elementary**

Thu October 3rd: 2:15pm: **Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School**

Call/text Deb at [907-355-1069](tel:907-355-1069) to volunteer



[New Club](#)

[Sep 24th: Anchorage Downtown Rotary - Josh the Otter Program](#)

[Sep 28th: Trails Work Party](#)

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Club Leaders



[Aaron Coman](#)
President



[Kimberly W. Erickson](#)
President-Elect



[Samantha Shannon](#)
Secretary



[Erin Cruz](#)
Treasurer



[Rodger Cheadle](#)
Club Director



[Kathleen M. Timm](#)
Attendance Secretary



[Marty T. Metiva](#)
Club Membership Chair



[Adam Rein](#)



Sep 21st: Interact - Planning to form a new club



Planning meeting to sponsor a new Interact Club!
Saturday, September 21st
12:00pm

The first committee meeting to form the new MatSu Valley Interact Club will be held at 570 S. Knik St., Wasilla, AK 99654.

Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self.

Interact clubs organize at least two projects every year, one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. Rotary club sponsors mentor and guide Interactors as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills.

Questions?
Aaron Coman or Erin Cruz

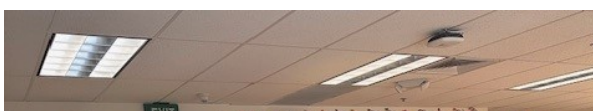
Sep 24th: Anchorage Downtown Rotary - Josh the Otter Program

Anchorage Rotary Club Meeting
Tuesday, September 24th

Petroleum Club
[3301 C St Ste 120, Anchorage, AK 99503](#)
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Past President Rob Grogan will be presenting the opportunity to expand the Josh the Otter Water Safety program to Anchorage area kindergartners. To encourage Anchorage clubs to take on this project, Susitna Rotary is offering to provide a Josh the Otter costume for use during the first 3 years and to cover half the cost of the books in the first year. Participating clubs will sign a one-page memorandum with Susitna Rotary.

Contact Rob at [907-355-4394](tel:907-355-4394) if you can help with the presentation to the Anchorage Rotary Club that day.





Club
Service
Projects
Chair



Josh
Waisanen
Club Rotary
Foundation
Chair



Cheryl L.
Metiva
Club
Service
Chair



Lynn
Mitchell
Club Youth
Services
Chair



Robert
Allan
Grogan
iPast
President



Samantha
Jo Aarthun
Club
Fundraising
Chair



Jack W.
Timm
Past
Presidents
Chair

Birthdays

Lynn Mitchell
September 16th
Dan Phillips
September 18th
Lisa Phillips
September 22nd
Wanetta Lemley
September 23rd

Adam Rein
September 27th

David Wayne
Cucullu
October 1st
Rodger Cheadle
October 5th
Randi C Madison
October 6th
Warren Mitchell
October 9th
Brittany Reed
October 11th
John Norbert
Klapperich
October 16th
George Wichers
October 26th
Deborah M
Waisanen
October 28th
Catherine Cheadle
October 29th



Sep 28th: Trails Work Party

Saturday, September 28th
Time TBD
Little Su Rotary Park
Work Party

Bring your gloves, shovels, and rakes as we make more progress on the trail expansion at the Little Su Rotary Park. Friends and family are welcome to help!

End Polio Now Update - Sep 2024

September 2024

End Polio Now Update

Rotary International Districts 5010, 5040, 5050, 5060, 6360, 5370, 5550

Sure, it was a little scary, but we all rolled up our sleeves and put an end to Polio. Not just for ourselves, but for all of humanity.

WORLD POLIO DAY
24 OCTOBER
#EndPolio | endpolio.org

TOGETHER, WE
END POLIO

Introduction and Thank you

I'm excited about the opportunity to work with you as Polio champions in our Rotary zone. My name is Jackie Hobal from Edmonton, Alberta, District 5370. Thank you for being part of this most important End Polio Now campaign and thank you for your efforts in 2023-2024 fundraising goals.

I was privileged to meet up with Mike McGovern, Rotary's End Polio Now Chair, in Singapore in May.

Polio is fighting for its life . . .

I'm sure most of you have heard the news from Gaza. The good news is that we have an aggressive surveillance system as a result of our Polio plus initiatives. We have also had an aggressive response from the WHO, UNICEF and other partners which has resulted in a declaration of peace for three days in the north

Wedding Anniversaries

Samantha Jo
Aarthun
October 15th
Dan Phillips
October 16th
Lisa Phillips
October 16th

central and south of Gaza. Well over 600,000 children under the age of 10 will be immunized.

Together, we are making strides toward a polio-free world. Let's keep the momentum going! Feel free to reach out at any time. Share your news and activities.

Here is a link to a video about the campaign in GAZA:
[WHO / GAZA POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN DAY 1](#)
This is really reassuring that the vaccination has finally taken place.



Polio Immunization Trips to India

There are two upcoming Polio Immunization trips to India being coordinated by the **Agra Tajmahal Rotary** club. If you have ever wanted to go to India and be involved in a **Mega Polio Campaign**, this is your opportunity!

Please click on secure links below for details:

Trip 1: [October 2024 Polio Trip with Rotary Projects](#)

Trip 2: [January 2-7, 2025 Polio Trip with Rotary Projects](#)



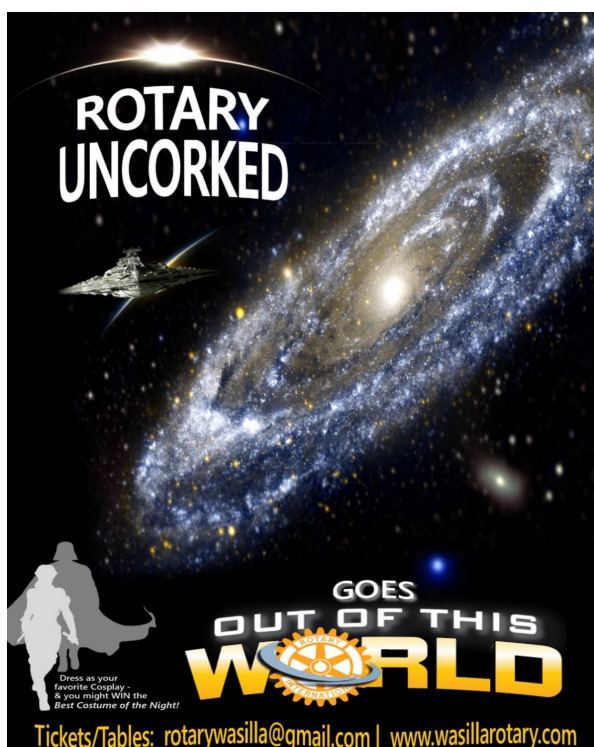
Rotarian's/Volunteer's Purpose

Opportunity to view, in person, Rotary International initiatives in support of polio eradication since 1978 by contributing millions of dollars, in association with WHO , UNICEF and Rotarians Worldwide. Our Indian hosts open arms looking forward to your visit, on a unique and exceptional itinerary specially created for you. In addition to our participation in Polio Routine Immunization, we will participate in

created for you. In addition to our participation in Polio Routine Immunization, we will participate in special Rotary activities and events KEEP INDIA POLIO FREE DRIVE. During the visit, all participants are going to experience all events and official programs, including Polio Rally Day door to door campaign activities and Rotary club and Rotary Foundation projects visits . **If you always wanted to participate in a Polio NID, this may be one of your last chances.**

Oct 12th: Rotary Uncorked - Goes Out of This World

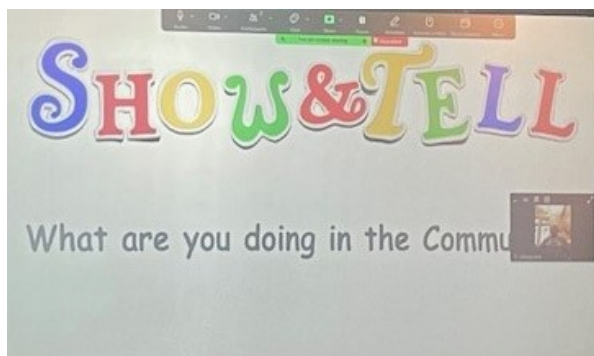
Wasilla Rotary club's annual Rotary Uncorked is right around the corner! Wine. Tapas. Auctions. All monies raised by this event go to local service organizations and scholarships. It's that time of year again!!! Wasilla Rotary Club is excited to announce that 2024 Rotary Uncorked theme is "Rotary Uncorked - GOES OUT OF THIS WORLD." Get your best alien , astronaut , or Chewbacca outfits ready! Get your tickets today @ <https://www.wasillarotary.com/>! We blast off at 6pm on October 12th!



Show & Tell

Susitna Rotarians and friends are involved in many community activities. President Aaron has introduced a new effort to showcase some of the many ways our members support the community outside of Rotary.

If you have a community event you would like to promote, please email Erin Cruz and Kim Erickson so that we can publicize it in the weekly slideshow (Erin) and weekly bulletin (Kim).



| Date | | | Event | Location | Contact for more info: |
|------|------|-----|---|---------------|--|
| Sep | 14th | Sat | Taste of Hope Mat-Su Benefitting American Cancer Society | Everett's | Erin-she 907-203-9499 |
| Oct | 19th | Sat | Operation Iron Warrior Chili Cook-off | VFW Post 9365 | Jeremiah OperationIronWarrior@gmail.com |
| Oct | 26th | Sat | KHITZ 107.1 Presents The Matsuvian Monster Bash | Everett's | Erin-she 907-203-9499 |





Save the Dates!

Susitna Rotarians have lots of opportunities in the upcoming months to serve the community and have some fun. Mark your calendars and stay tuned each week for more details as the various events unfold.

| Date | | | Event | Location | RSVP required? |
|------|---------|----------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Sep | 14th | Sat | TRF Fundraiser Committee meeting | 570 S. Knik St. Wasilla | No - contact Josh Waisanen for questions |
| Sep | 21st | Sat | Interact - sponsoring new club Committee meeting | 570 S. Knik St. Wasilla | No - contact Erin Cruz for questions |
| Sep | 28th | Sat | Trails Work Party | Lil Su Rotary Park | No - contact Adam Rein for questions |
| Oct | 12th | Sat | Rotary Uncorked Goes Out of this World | Curtis Menard Sports Center | Purchase tickets in advance |
| Nov | 9th | Sat | The Rotary Foundation Fundaiser | Evangelo's | Purchase tickets in advance |
| Dec | 18th | Wed | Club Holiday Party & Officer Elections | TBD | |
| Mar | 2nd | Sun | Iditarod Restart Party & End Polio Now Fundraiser | Tryg & Kim Erickson Willow, AK | No ... bring family and friends |
| Apr | | | RYLA | | Yes - volunteer to chaperone |
| May | 1st | Thu | District Assembly | Juneau | Yes - register through DACdb |
| May | 2nd-4th | Fri-Sun | District Conference | Juneau | Yes - register through DACdb |
| May | 21st | Wed | Big Lake Library Cleanup | Big Lake Library | No ... bring family and friends |
| Jun | 7th | Sat | Lil Su Classic River Cleanup | Lil Su River Pavilion | No ... bring family and friends |
| Jun | 19th | Wed | Passing of the Gavel | TBD | TBD |
| Jun | 21-25th | Sat- Wed | Rotary International Convention | Calgary, Canada | Yes - register in advance |



DACdb - Sign in

Log into [DACdb](#) to


- Update your contact/member information
- Find other member's information
- Sign up for a committee
- Enter a makeup
- View invoices/your financial activity
- Look up speaker information
- Sign up for an event
- Record volunteer hours
- Look up club stats
- View district 5010 stories, calendar, events
- Etc.....

[DACdb.com](#)

Don't miss these stories below.

DYK About iMembersDB

DACdb supports more than Rotary! DACdb is not just for Rotary! Yes, if you are part of another membership organization and wish that you could have the functionality of DACdb in that organization, the good news is that YES YOU CAN. DACdb has a sister product called iMembersDB that is almost everything of DACdb without the Rotary specific adaptations. Pretty cool, isn't it? Please, use this link to book time with our team: [Learn more.](#)



DACdb LOGIN

LOGIN

Remember Me: ☐ DO NOT check this on public systems (e.g., libraries, internet cafes)

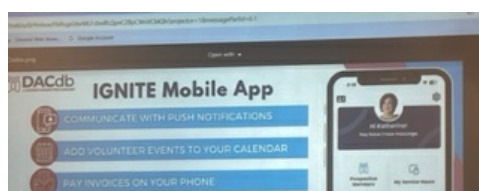
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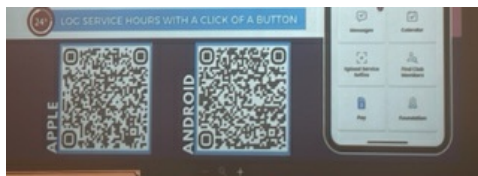
Scroll to see the stories.

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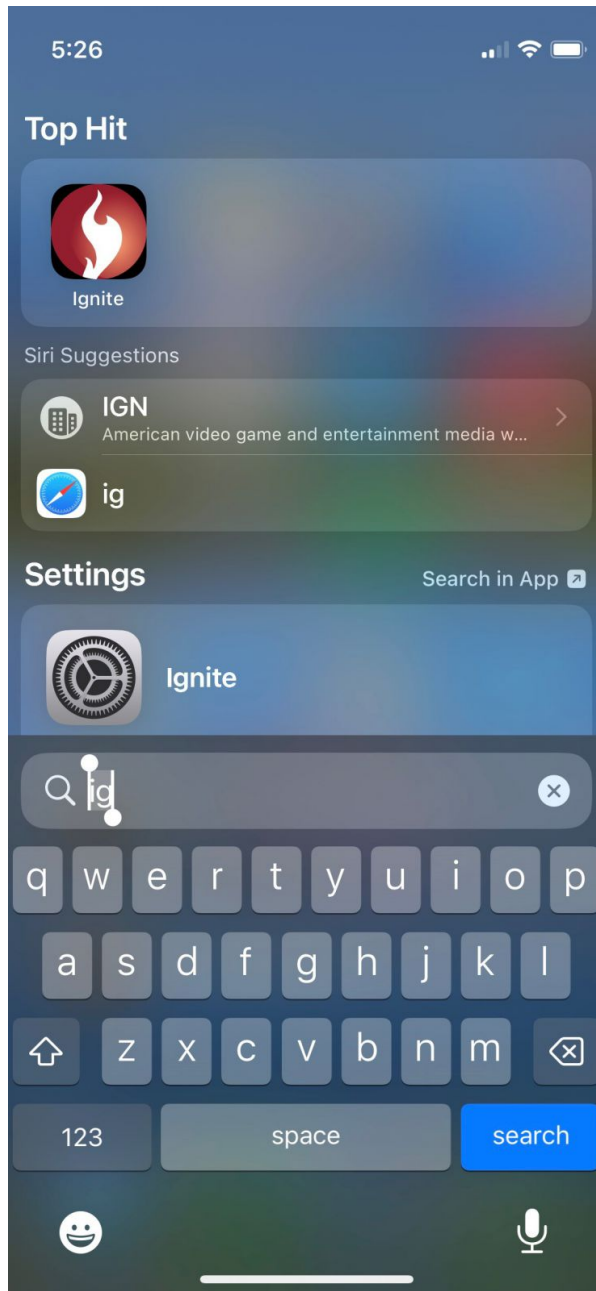
Want to know what is going on in the club? Download the DACdb IGNITE Mobile App today!

Scan the QR code in your App store:

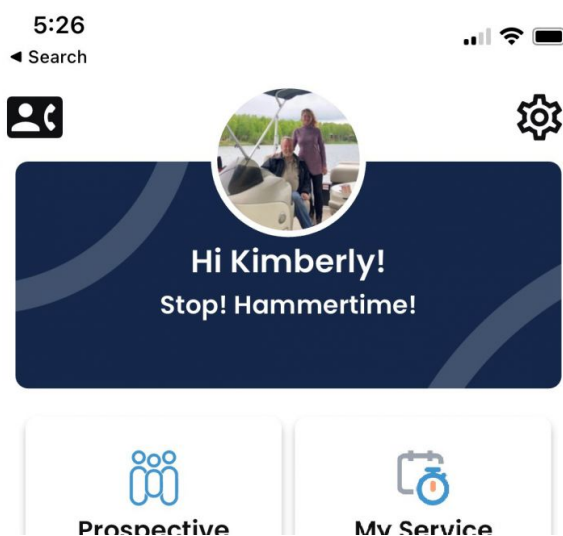


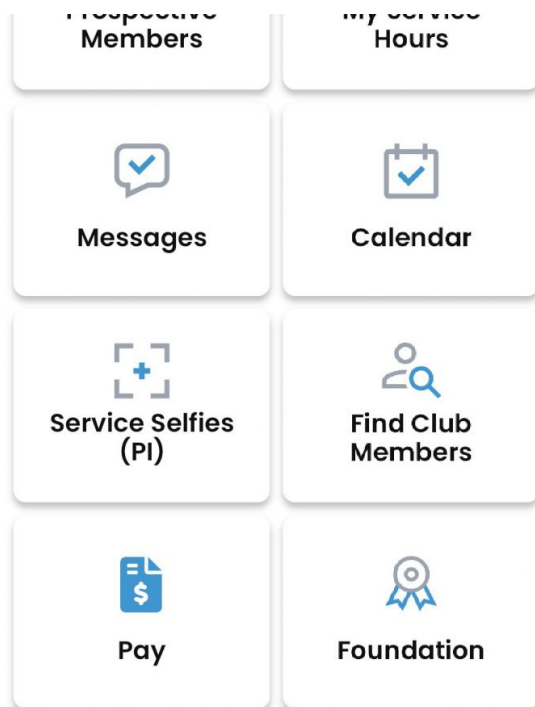


The App icon looks like this:



Your user name is your email address. Once you get into the App, you have all these options!





Youth Exchange Message 2024

Tuesday, April 23, 2024



Would you like to embark on an adventure as a **Rotary Exchange Student** and transform your world perspective? Now is the time to contact us as we start recruiting for the 2025/2026 school year! Interviews will be conducted in **September & October**.

Check out additional information on the [Youth Exchange Page](#)

RYLA Link Page



Click image for upcoming RYLA Events

