

Rotary

District 7280



District Governor's Note

Zachary Covington, District Governor 2024-25

January 2025

Rotary Believes Peace is Possible!

Dear Rotary District 7280 Family,

As February unfolds, we find ourselves at the heart of a season of service and connection—aptly reflected in Rotary's theme for this month: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention. It is a time to reflect on how we, as Rotarians, can foster understanding, dialogue, and harmony in our communities and beyond.

Rotary's commitment to peace is one of our seven Areas of Focus, and this month gives us the opportunity to highlight the incredible efforts of Rotarians worldwide in building bridges where walls once stood. Whether it's through supporting Rotary Peace Fellowships, creating safe spaces for youth, or advocating for social justice, every act of service brings us closer to a more peaceful world.

Here in District 7280, I have been inspired by the many projects that reflect these ideals. From conflict resolution workshops to initiatives that address food insecurity, housing, and education, you are making a tangible difference! These efforts are a testament to the power of collective action and the impact we can achieve when we work together with purpose.

This month, I encourage you to think about how your club can contribute to peacebuilding. Consider hosting a program that promotes dialogue or participating in a service project that addresses a critical need in your community. Small acts of kindness and understanding can often have the biggest impact.

As always, let us not forget the importance of fellowship in our mission. Building peace begins with fostering connections within our own clubs. Take the time to engage with one another, share ideas, and celebrate the successes that make Rotary so vibrant.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Rotary's mission and for being the changemakers that our world so desperately needs. Together, we are creating a brighter, more peaceful future—one project, one conversation, and one relationship at a time.

In Rotary Spirit,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zach".

Zachary Covington
District Governor



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Dates to Remember - Feb & Mar 2025

February - Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention Month

9-13 - International Assembly
 17 - President's Day
 23 - Rotary International's Birthday
 25 - World Affairs Institute

March - Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene Month

5 - Ash Wednesday
 7-9 - President-Elect Learning Seminar (PELS)
 10-16 World Rotaract Week
RYLA Scholarship Commitment Form Due by March 17, 2025

District Governor Nominations

Call for Nominations for District 7280 District Governor Nominee 2025-26

To: District 7280 Membership
 From: Zachary Covington, District Governor
 RE: District Governor Nominee 2025-2026

All District 7280 clubs are invited to submit District Governor Nominee nominations for the 2025 – 2026 Rotary year. The information submitted shall be in the form of a resolution, adopted at a regular meeting of the club. The named candidate must be nominated and approved by a majority of the club members. The resolution shall be certified by the club secretary. A club may suggest a candidate who is a member of another club, so long as the suggesting club first obtains the concurrence of the candidate's club.

Candidates are required to have been a member in good standing for at least seven years and have served a full year as club president. The candidates must agree in writing to have their name submitted.

The club resolution and candidate acceptance letter need to be submitted together and mailed via US Mail to District Governor Zachary Covington, PO Box 580, Clarion, PA 16214 or emailed to District Governor Zachary Covington at zc7280@gmail.com.

In accordance with the District and Rotary International By-Laws, ONLY club-suggested candidates are eligible to challenge the Nominating Committee's Decision.

The Rotary Leadership Institute



The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a leadership and development program to strengthen Rotary and Rotaract Clubs through education, collaboration and the exchange of ideas among its members and future leaders. RLI is a three-part curriculum facilitated by experienced, trained faculty members engaging participants through open discussions, problem solving and creative role play. Although not an official program of Rotary International, more than 360 Rotary Districts now offer it to their members. International RLI is divided into Divisions. Rotary Districts 7280, 7305

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District Leaders

Zachary S. Covington
 District Governor

Aaron Matthew Sines
 District Governor-Elect

Mary E. Lord
 DG Nominee

Eva Palmer
 District Secretary

Patricia J. Meehan
 District Treasurer

and 7360 make-up the RLI Main Line Division.

To learn more about the RLI and RLI Main Line Division, please visit <https://www.rlimainline.org>

Ken R Fleeson
District
Membership
Chair
John Marshall
District Rotary
Foundation
Chair
Rebekah E.
Deal
District Public
Image/PR Chair

Smethport Designer Purse Bingo

SMETHPORT ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS



Coach • Kate Spade • Vera Bradley • Michael Kors & MORE!

February 16, 2025 | 2PM
Court of Angels Banquet Hall

Doors open at 12:30 | Cost: \$30

16 Games • Basket Raffles
Purses & Bags - Watch out for Mystery Cash!

WINNER OF EACH BINGO GAME WINS A PURSE
Opportunity to buy additional bingo cards for each game

Light Snacks will be provided
Adult Refreshments, Soda and Water will be available for purchase

TICKET MUST BE PRESENTED FOR ADMISSION
License #BNG07356

030

CONTACT FOR TICKETS:
Troy Herzog

505 W. Main St.
Smethport, PA 16749

814-558-6113

troyherzog@hotmail.com

Don't Miss Warren's Tropical Casino Night - Feb 1st



**Warren Rotary's
Tropical Casino Night**

An evening of fun and games to raise money
to benefit local Rotary programs.
Sat, Feb 1st, 2025 | 6:30 PM- 11 PM
Conewango Club
201 Market St, Warren PA
\$25 per person for advanced tickets
\$30 per person at the door



**Costume Contest!
Games of Chance!
Basket Raffle!
Cash Bar**



**A delicious Dinner Buffet is available
before the event for \$17 per person.
RSVP for dinner at (814) 723-6250.
No need to be a Conewango Club member!**

**THE CONTENT OF THIS MATERIAL IS IN NO WAY AFFILIATED
WITH; SPONSORED, ENDORSED OR ADVOCATED BY; OR
ADMINISTERED BY THE WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICT.**

Zelienople & ShuBrew raise over \$10k for local family

Zelienople Rotary Club members took over ShuBrew for a night to raise money for the Ramirez family, whose 10-year-old son, Jax, is battling IPEX syndrome. This rare autoimmune disease affects about 1 in every 1.6 million people. While waiting tables and bartending, plus one large donation, the Rotary was able to raise \$10,365.00 for Jax and his family! It was an incredible event, full of heart and community spirit! The collective effort of the Rotary Club and everyone involved shows the strength of the community and how powerful it can be when people come together for a good cause. It was an inspiring night!

If you would like to donate or follow Jax's incredible journey, follow @bethematchforjax
Submitted by Crystal Horan



DuBois Rotary Club Introduces Exciting New Auction Format

DuBois Rotary Club 5131 is excited to announce a transformation of its much-anticipated annual radio auction. Historically held as a single-day event, the radio auction will now take on a dynamic week-long format. Scheduled for **March 3-7**, this new approach will blend online and radio elements, offering greater flexibility and excitement for participants.

During the week, listeners can tune in to one-hour radio segments that not only highlight auction items but also showcase the generous donors and community organizations positively impacted by Rotary's work. This extended format ensures broader community engagement and a deeper understanding of how Rotary's efforts touch lives in DuBois and beyond.

"The new format allows us to reach more people and tell the stories behind the work we do," said a club representative. "We're excited to make this event bigger and better than ever."

Get Involved

Whether you're interested in bidding during the auction or simply tuning in to support, the DuBois Rotary Club welcomes your participation. Mark your calendars for the week-long auction starting **March 3**, and join us in making a difference in our community!

Pictured: Dubois Club Members



Portersville Prospect Spotlight the Butler Co. Farmers

January at the Rotary Club of Portersville Prospect, had the club giving money away every night of the month for their New Years Cash Calendar fundraiser. Great job!

On 1/28/25, we held our annual Farmers night where our local farmers are invited to dinner. After a great meal, the members and farmers were treated to a program by Debbie Crum from Butler County, Pennsylvania on everything that will be going on in Butler County, PA this year. Afterward, the farmers were introduced along with what crops and livestock they raise. There's a lot going on at the farms in Butler County, PA.



Zelienople's 16th Annual Shamrock Shuffle

Hosted by:

Zelienople
Rotary
Club



16th Annual

Shamrock



Shuffle

March 15, 2025 in Harmony

REGISTER

NOW:



Half Marathon 7:30 AM
5K Run & Walk 10:15 AM
1 Mile Family Run
& Walk 11 AM

Title Sponsors: ARMSTRONG®



Net Proceeds benefit Rotary Club of Zelienople Community Service Projects

Mt. Jewett Chocolate Indulgence 2025

The Mt. Jewett Rotary Club is hosting its annual Chocolate Indulgence on February 8, 2025, at Mt. Jewett Veterans Memorial Club. It boasts all you can eat chocolate treats, an exciting live auction, silent auction, raffles, 50/50, door prizes, cash bar, and live music. This is our biggest event of the year! Tickets are \$10 each and available from any Mt. Jewett Rotarian. For more information, check out our website or Facebook page.



Zelienople Helps Promote "The Andrew Effect"

The Seneca Valley School District, in partnership with The Andrew Effect, launched a new program for full-day Kindergarten students called Dramatic Play Centers. Beth Marshall, Zelienople Rotary Member and sponsor, attended the event on January 17, 2025, showcasing the centers at Haine Middle School. Each center promotes creativity while helping children build important cognitive and social skills. Thanks to Beth for getting involved and being a sponsor! The organization welcomes volunteers, monetary donations and awareness. Learn more at [The Andrew Effect](#)



Remembering Curt Whipple, Area Governor

Curt Whipple, Area Governor, passed away on January 20, 2025. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. Pictured with Crystal Horan, Zelenople Rotary Member.



Venango Club Provides Critical Support to Kids

The Venango Club found a great local cause to champion in January. **Roots of NW PA** provides critical support to kids entering foster care in northwest PA. Children may be pulled from their home without notice, and therefore often lack basic items like body wash, deodorant, or even clothing.

The club collected personal hygiene/health/beauty items, comfort blankets, and journaling supplies for the supply pantry.

We discussed other efforts on a more ongoing basis. More to come.



Rich-Mar's Night at the Races

A Night at the Races



Sponsored by Rich-Mar Rotary



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

Richland Volunteer Fire Hall
5857 Meridian Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044
Doors Open at 5:45pm ~ Post Time at 7:00pm
Proceeds Benefit Community Service Projects

Buffet 6:15pm Beer & Wine (Donations accepted) Hors d'oeuvres 10 Races

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Tickets to attend "A Night at the Races":

_____ x \$50 each = \$ _____

I am interested in being a sponsor for only \$100 which includes the sponsor's name and logos to be featured in the event program and on-screen prior to the race)

Yes _____ = \$100

I am interested in purchasing a table for 8 guests which will include the purchase of one horse. Yes _____ = \$375

I would like to pre-purchase my horse(s) @ \$10 per horse: # _____ of horses x \$10 = \$ _____

Name your horse (this will be the name the caller will use during race)

#1 _____

If you purchased more than 1 horse, please continue on back of form

Total payment due \$ _____ (Includes tickets, sponsorship and horses)

Payment: Check _____ Cash _____

Credit Card payment: _____

Expiration Date ____/____/____

Make checks payable to: "Rich-Mar Rotary" and mail to Rich-Mar Rotary, c/o A Night at the Races, P.O. Box 392, Mars, PA 16046. For questions, please contact Dan Goss at dangoss11@gmail.com or 412-633-1740. For credit card assistance, please contact Gary Weston at 724-816-0573.

All payments and registration are due by **February 12, 2025**.

You must be 21 or older to participate.

Join the Appalachian Mission Team

Rich-Mar Rotary Appalachia Mission Trip

For 25 years, teens and adults have bonded with the Mullens, West Virginia community and have improved peoples' lives through fellowship and home improvement projects. We have an impeccable safety record in working on roofs, wheelchair ramps, indoor repairs and window replacements. We continue to be energized to help the community of Mullens. No construction experience is needed.

Who is invited?

- High School Students: Incoming freshmen fall 2025 - seniors graduating spring 2026
- All College Students
- All Adults

Where is it?

- Mullens, West Virginia

When is it?

- Sunday, June 8th – Friday, June 13th, 2025

Cost?

- \$300.00 for students

Scan the QR Code below for more information and to register or email us at mullensappalachia@gmail.com.



Please join us on February 18, 2025, at 7:00 PM for an informational session at:
Richland Township Fire Hall 5857 Meridian Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

Our Mission in Action!

Miss Judy was woken abruptly one night when her world was shaken, literally and violently. A tree on the steep hillside behind her home toppled over onto her home, crushing part of her roof and piercing the back wall with one of its limbs.

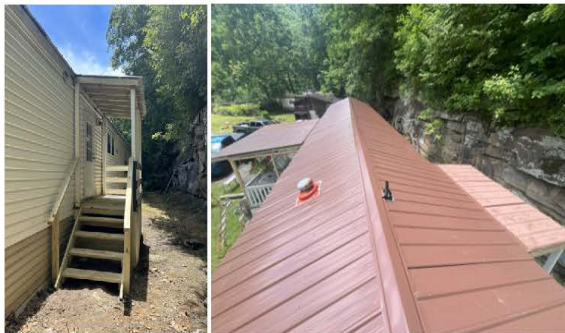
Her son patched the roof and the wall together with some scrap metal roofing and plywood to keep out the weather. However, this would not serve as a long-term solution. Miss Judy did not have the means to contract the proper repairs, so she reached out to our team to help.

We replaced her entire roof with a new metal roof and repaired her rear wall including replacement of the siding. While we were there, we also fixed a leak from the front porch roof that was causing damage around her front door, a leak from the rear porch that was causing damage around her back door, and we replaced the frame and floor of her back porch which was almost completely rotted through.

Before:



After:





Before



After



Before



After



Remarkable Meetings for Rich-Mar

One of the best meetings I've attended in 25 years

"I think Wednesday's meeting was one of the best I have attended in my 25 years in Rotary. The dedication to Mary was very moving and the presentation by Ingomar Living Waters and Hope for Ghana about all that they do, and the well we helped build in Ghana were truly inspiring." - Rich-Mar Rotarian Chuck Berry

We had our second successful meeting at Pine Community Center and welcomed several guests (and a few Rotarians we have not seen at a meeting in a while, which was great!). The AV capability at Pine Community Center, the intimate setting and the good food from John Marshall made for a great day.

We honored Jim Kirschner for his Paul Harris award and Mary Lord for her Paul Harris +5 award and thanked them for their Rotary Foundation contributions. Mary also received her Paul Harris Society 'wings' from our guest attendee, District Governor Zach Covington.

We then honored Mary via the Proclamation (full version later in this newsletter) that a Rich-Mar Scholarship has been initiated in her name to help incoming students in our District as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange that Mary has been an instrumental part of for many years. Mary noted her thanks and was grateful that students will be able to benefit from this as they participate in such an enriching program. Mary invited several guests (several Rotarians) to join the meeting in her honor.

The weather deterred attendance of several of the Interact Club members from Mars and Pine Richland, but Chuck Berry was able to summarize Mars Interact projects and interviewed one of our Interact Club members from Pine Richland (Kara) about their projects. We have pledged \$250 to further each club's projects. Given Pine Richland will do another Walk for Water this year, and to inspire Mars to consider one, we had our partners - Andy Fraley from Ingomar Living Waters and Steve Greene from Hope for Ghana - talk about their project successes and show videos from Ghana, including the well that provides fresh water to a village of 400 for the first time that was funded by the PR Interact Club and Rich-Mar.

Several people remarked on the energy in the room (and it was great to see some satellite members there too!) - come to our next meetings on the first and third Wednesdays in February (5th and 19th).

Jim Kirchner receives his Paul Harris Award (L) Mary Lord receives her Paul Harris +5 Award (R)



Mary Lord receives her Paul Harris Society "Wings" (L) and the Proclamation (R)



Chuck Berry and Kara share about Interact (L) and Steve Greene shares about Hope for Ghana (R)



President Dave, Andy Fraley & Steve Greene



Mary Lord Student Fund Proclamation

MARY LORD RICH-MAR ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND

WHEREAS, Mary Lord has provided exemplary service and leadership for Rich-Mar Rotary,

and,

WHEREAS, Mary Lord has served as a leader in running Rotary District 7280's Youth Exchange program,

and;

WHEREAS, Rich-Mar Rotary wishes to honor Mary Lord's outstanding service to both organizations,

IT IS HEREBY DECREED THAT RICH-MAR ROTARY WILL ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL PAYMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DISTRICT 7280 YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

The initial scholarship amount will be \$500 and the annual amount for subsequent years will be determined by the Rich-Mar Rotary board no later than July 31st of each year.

Scholarship awards will be determined by the District 7280 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee which is currently comprised of Mary Lord, Beth Marshall and Jeff Simmons. These awards should be made during the course of the year to students or student families that incur extraordinary expenses and any unspent money at the end of the year should be used for the benefit of all the current students in the district.

It is intended that these monies will be used primarily for the benefit of inbound students, but all decisions for awards will be in the discretion of the District 7280 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee.



Rich-Mar Matches the Kettle Campaign Collections

Prior to Christmas, on one of the coldest days in December, Rich-Mar Rotarians braved the cold and rang the bell for ten hours, raising funds for the North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) Unit of the Salvation Army. A job well done. At our meeting on January 15th, the club did even better by presenting Harriet latte and Jason Shaffer from NHCO with a matching check in the amount of \$1406, which will be used by NHCO to meet the needs of many in our local community who are in need of a helping hand.

President Dave Hein, Harriet Klatte, Jason Shaffer, Rich-Mar Community Service Chair Bramdon Barg



Sharon Partners With Hang Tough Non-profit To Serve Cancer Patients

At a December meeting, club members packed over 100 stockings in partnership with the Hang Tough non-profit and delivered these for the patients receiving cancer treatments at Farrell UPMC Hospital. Hang Tough already had 100 stockings prepared, which means overall, over 200 stockings were delivered for distribution.



Help Families Facing Disaster This Winter



Rotary





Everyone deserves a place to call home. Right now, more than 100 million people around the world have lost their homes to disaster and conflict. We are working to change this. By providing emergency shelter, tools, and household supplies to displaced families after disaster, we enable families to begin to rebuild and recover, transforming despair into hope.

Yes, ShelterBox is helping victims of the Los Angeles fire. See more details here: <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/los-angeles-wildfires-update/>

While any help is welcome, your club can become a ShelterBox Hero by sending a check for \$1000 or more made out to ShelterBox USA, to David Sturrock at the address below. If you note your district and club on the memo line, I'll ensure that it gets credited correctly.

We will have our tent and equipment on display at the Tri-District PELS (PETS) on March 8th. And we are anxious to appear in-person or virtually at your club meeting or event.



If you or anyone you know would consider working with us as an ambassador (particularly northern D7280 or eastern D7305) this would be a great time to start.

A ShelterBox Supporter Conference and 25th Anniversary Celebration is coming up April 4-6. You can get free admission to the event and some travel subsidies may be available. Contact us and we will help you get started.

ShelterBox District 7305 and 7280 Ambassadors

Dave & Melanie Sturrock, 7954 Franklin Rd, Evans City, PA

724-991-4750, dtsturrock@gmail.com

<https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>