

District Governor's Note

Zachary Covington, District Governor 2024-25

June 2025

Greetings, Rotary Family!

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." - Dr. Seuss

As I write my final newsletter message to you as District Governor of District 7280, I'm filled with deep gratitude, pride, and admiration for the Rotarians who have made this journey unforgettable.

This past year, we have shared service, strengthened friendships, and sparked inspiration throughout our communities. From literacy projects to District and global grants, from youth programs to women's health, and from new member inductions to inspiring district events—we've lived out the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, with heart and action.

I am especially proud of the way we embraced this year's theme of celebrating the Magic of Rotary. Together, we have done just that. Through vocational scholarships, food insecurity initiatives, disaster relief support, and countless acts of kindness, we have planted seeds (literally and figuratively!) of hope across our district and beyond.

Serving as your District Governor has been one of the greatest honors of my life! It's humbling to see how much good can be done when people of purpose unite. I am incredibly grateful to the clubs, leaders, and Rotarians who welcomed me, supported our initiatives, and dreamed big right alongside me. You remind me time and again why Rotary matters.

As we turn the page to a new Rotary year, I offer my full support to DG Aaron Sines as he takes the baton. Let's rally behind him with the same energy and enthusiasm that defines District 7280.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Thank you for believing in the power of Rotary. And thank you for making this year one I'll cherish always.

I look forward to seeing you at the District Conference next weekend! (Register now if you haven't yet done so!)

As I mentioned last month, let's finish this year strong – together!

In Rotary Spirit,



In This Issue

<u>District Governor's</u> Note

<u>Dates to Remember -</u> <u>June & July 2025</u>

<u>June 6-8th District</u> <u>Conference - Register</u> NOW!

Greenville Golf Outing

RYLA Rotary Dinner - Tuesday, June 17th

<u>Port Allegany</u> <u>Dictionary Project</u>

Successful Endowment Match for Mt Jewett Library

Butler AM Beautifies
Their Community

Butler AM Annual Picnic

Keystone Installs Peace Pole in Cranberry Twp.

Zelienople Rotary Community Yard Sale-June 13th and June 14th

Zelienople Stop the Judgment Project

New Member Welcomed to Zelienople



Zachary Covington District Governor

Dates to Remember - June & July 2025

June - Rotary Fellowships Month

1 - 2025-26 Club Goals Entered in Rotary Club Central
6-8 - 2025 District 7280 Conference, Golf & Pickleball Tournament
30 - Last Day to submit 2024-25 District Grant Final Report
30 - Deadline to enter club goals in Rotary Club Central for RI Club Excellence Award

July - Maternal and Child Health Month

- 1 Deadline to Submit 2025-26 District Grant MOU
- 1 Beginning of the Rotary year

June 6-8th District Conference - Register NOW!

Erie Peace Pole
Dedication in Griswold
Park

Cranberry Sunrise VOICe Laundry Room Project

<u>Cranberry Sunrise 17th</u> <u>Annual Golf Outing</u>

<u>Cranberry Sunrise</u> <u>Recognizes Students of</u> the Month

Cranberry Sunrise Adopt-A-Roadway Cleanup

<u>Cranberry Sunrise</u> <u>Family First Initiative</u>

Rich-Mar Pays Tribute to the Greatest Generation

Pine-Richland Interact Walk 4 Water

Rich-Mar Plumbers and Painters Go To Work On The Train Station

Rotarians Gather Medical Equipment for CHOSEN

A Busy Month for Portersville Prospect

Mt. Jewett Post Office Spruce Up

Successful Clarion Community Auction

Clarion Multiphasic Blood Screening Event

District Leaders

Zachary S. Covington District Governor Aaron Matthew Sines District Governor-Elect Eva Palmer



District Secretary
Patricia J. Meehan
District Treasurer
Ken R Fleeson
District Membership
Chair
John Marshall
District Rotary
Foundation Chair
Rebekah E. Deal
District Public
Image/PR Chair

CLICK HERE to register for the **District Conference**.

CLICK HERE to register for Friday's **Golf Outing** or **Pickleball Tournament**.

CLICK HERE to view **housing & hotel options**.

Greenville Golf Outing



RYLA Rotary Dinner - Tuesday, June 17th

RYLA week is a transformational time for students. It is a week they will not forget, and they forge new friendships that last long after the program is over. We get a chance to remind them who is responsible for this great week when we have our Rotary dinner at Westminster College, McKelvey Campus Center on Tuesday, June 17th at 6pm.

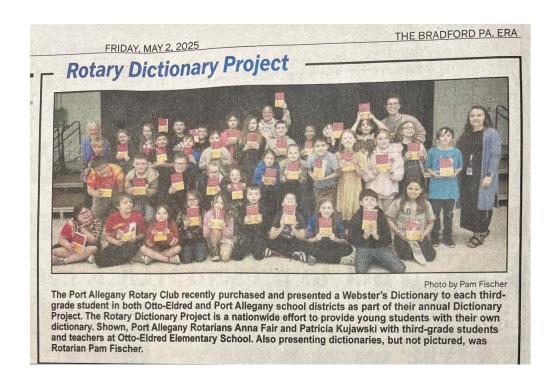
This year we are going to have a Rotary reception at 5pm for those who want to have a relaxing opportunity to connect with other Rotarians. Dinner will follow at 6.

The cost of the dinner, which is sponsored by the New Wilmington club, is \$25 (cash or check to Rotary District 7280-RYLA). It is an opportunity to have dinner with students and talk to them about our passion for Rotary. We hope you can make it.

Please RSVP to Chuck Berry, cdberry13@gmail.com or text 724-272-4020.

The District 7280 RYLA Committee

Port Allegany Dictionary Project



Successful Endowment Match for Mt Jewett Library

People of Action Alert! The great people of this community, are all people of action! Back in April, we challenged you to raise \$2,000 for the Mount Jewett Memorial Library Endowment Fund. This fund ensures that the amazing services our local library offers will continue into the future. Instead of \$2,000, you raised just shy of \$6,000!!!! With our 2K match, the Library added \$7,955 to the endowment! Thank you! Recently, the library has added over 50 patrons and held dozens of incredible programs, all for you! Stop in and say hi to Courtney!



Photo: L-R Rotarian and Library Board Member Erik Ross, Library Director Courtney Baker, Library Board President Melissa McGuire, and Rotary President-Elect Will Keesler

Butler AM Beautifies Their Community



Annual Flower planting for our community at Hansen Ave/New Castle Rd intersection

Butler AM Annual Picnic



Annual Rotary Picnic recognized our member, Julie Sebock with Peace Builder pin and welcomed members to enjoy a meal and fellowship. Photo:

Membership Chair, Ashley McCandless.

Keystone Installs Peace Pole in Cranberry Twp.

Members of our club helped to install the Peace Pole at the Rose E. Schneider YMCA in Cranberry Twp as our club dedicates another Peace Pole. Rotarian Kim Armstrong has donated and organized the installation of this pole in memory of a few very special family members. Special thank you to Kim's team of Keystone Rotarians for preparing and installing the pole.



Keystone Members Pictured: Lee Dyer, Kim Armstrong, Ron McCormick, Mark Wilson, and Bill Westerman





Zelienople Rotary Community Yard Sale-June 13th and June 14th

The Zelienople Rotary Community Yard Sale is June 13th and June 14th, 8:00am-4:00pm. Donations are accepted in the trailer beside the Gym at Glade Run until June 11th (Parking Lot C). Submitted by Crystal Horan



Zelienople Stop the Judgment Project



Stop The Judgment Project presented at the Zelienople Rotary Meeting on May 21, 2025. The project is inspired by their daughter, Siena "Sadie" Bott, who died at the age of 21 years old of fentanyl poisoning in 2020. Their mission is to end the stigma of mental health disorders and substance-use disorders in young adults. To donate or spread awareness, please go to stopthejudgment.org/donate Submitted by Crystal Horan

New Member Welcomed to Zelienople



The Zelienople Rotary Club welcomed a new member, Beth Buenaventura, on May 21, 2025. Also pictured are Charlie Deer (President) and Teresa Gadberry (Membership Chair). Submitted by Crystal Horan

Erie Peace Pole Dedication in Griswold Park

The dedication of the Club's Peace Pole in downtown Erie's Griswold Park occurred on May 14, 2025, with DG Zach Covington present for the ceremony. The Erie Mayor also presented at the dedication ceremony, along with Diane Chido, who talked about the history and significance of the Peace Pole.

The Pole was installed by the Interact Club students from the Erie County Technical School, including complete site design—lighting, plantings, bench, etc. The students from the Construction Trades and Facilities Maintenance programs did the physical planning and labor while students from the Graphic Arts department designed and printed the invitations for the event.









Cranberry Sunrise VOICe Laundry Room Project



The Rotary Club of Cranberry Township - Sunrise donated a new washer and dryer and helped complete the laundry room at VOICe in Butler. We're grateful for VOICe's vital work supporting survivors and hope our contribution brings added comfort to those they serve.

Cranberry Sunrise 17th Annual Golf Outing



Thank you to all who made our 17th Annual Golf Outing at Shannopin Country Club a fantastic success! We had 80 golfers participate this year. Their support helps fund scholarships, youth leadership programs, community service projects, and Rotary's global humanitarian efforts.

Cranberry Sunrise Recognizes Students of the Month



The Club proudly recognized Rowan Elementary 4th graders Minh Nguyen, Kara Anderson, and Keegan Bodine as Rotary Students of the Month. These students exemplify "Service Above Self" through their kindness, respect, and dedication to their school.

Cranberry Sunrise Adopt-A-Roadway Cleanup



The Rotary Club of Cranberry Township Sunrise collected 11 bags of trash during their latest Powell Road cleanup, continuing 15 years of service through the Adopt-A-Roadway program. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for keeping our community clean!

Cranberry Sunrise Family First Initiative



A big thank you to Elayne Wilhelm, Denise Etter, and Ron Gigler for representing Rotary at the Family First Initiative on May 15 in Cranberry Township. We're proud to support events that connect families with essential services and show how Rotary strengthens communities through all our local clubs.

Rich-Mar Pays Tribute to the Greatest Generation









Pride and respect for the "Greatest Generation" was evident on May 21st when Rich-Mar Rotarians - including John Chips, Tracey Anzaldi, Sharon Scheidemantle and Joe Schmitt - shared the stories of their parents, grandparents and friends who were among those many brave men and women who served our country and helped to protect our freedoms during World War II.

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We are blessed to have had such courageous and dedicated patriots in our midst. In addition to the stories told, many interesting photos and mementos were on display.

Some are depicted below.



















Thank you to all who shared their memories, and to all the members and quests who came to honor the "Greatest Generation."

Pine-Richland Interact Walk 4 Water



On Monday, May 19th, the members of the Pine-Richland Interact Club put on a Walk 4 Water to raise funds to build a well in Ghana. The \$5,000 generated through their efforts, and with the support of the Pine-Richland teachers and administration, along with the Rich-Mar Rotary Club will enable the Hope for Ghana organization to drill a well in Avegborlo, Ghana, dramatically improving the lives of over 400 residents there who are currently walking about 2 miles to obtain water, and that water is heavily polluted.



Pictured above are Dawn Herbst, sponsoring teacher for the Pine-Richland Interact Club, and Steve Green, President of Hope for Ghana.

For a more detailed description of the Walk 4 Water and its impact on the folks in Ghana, see the newspaper article on the event by clicking the link below:

https://community.triblive.com/c/pine-creek-journal/news/ 3799709)

Rich-Mar Plumbers and Painters Go To Work On The Train Station









Thanks to all who gave of their time to make this project a success!

Rotarians Gather Medical Equipment for CHOSEN

On Saturday Morning, May 17th, Rotarians, including Chuck Berry, Lee Dyer, Bill Westerman and Joe Schmitt (plus Joe's daughter Dodee), gathered in Richland Township Community Park to collect medical equipment for the organization, CHOSEN, which then distributes the equipment to those less fortunate.

Thanks to all who volunteered, and all those who donated!





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A Busy Month for Portersville Prospect

It's been a busy month with lots of rain and wind. There were several tries to get the highway cleanup done, but we got it done. Our raffle is going fine and will start on the 2nd of June!!!!

On a more somber note, our Memorial Day parade teamed up with the 200year anniversary of Prospect and the opening of a time capsule. While the weather stayed dry, it was a windy chilly day, but the kids loved it and enjoyed the bounce houses and the princess as the adults watched.













Mt. Jewett Post Office Spruce Up



Rotary - People of Action. Our club recently held a work session downtown at our garden. We regularly maintain the area next to the Post Office and recently decided to fix the area in front of the building as well. With permission from USPS, we removed the two dying shrubs that obstructed the kiosk, replaced the 4x4 along the front edge, trimmed the hedges, and added new mulch. Once the weather improves, we will repaint/stain the kiosk doors and posts.

Successful Clarion Community Auction













Clarion Multiphasic Blood Screening Event





