

District Governor's Note

Zachary Covington, District Governor 2024-25

May 2025

Greetings, Rotary Family!

As the days grow longer and the snow becomes a recent memory, I'm encouraged as we enter the final stretch of this Rotary year. May invites us to reflect on the incredible work we've done together—and the impact that still lies ahead. This month, we celebrate Youth Service Month, honoring the next generation of Rotary leaders who are already making a difference in their schools, communities, and beyond.

Whether through Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, ROVA or RYLA, our district continues to foster young people who embody the Rotary spirit of service above self. I encourage every club to take a moment this month to engage with and recognize these young leaders. Invite them to share their stories, offer them a seat at your table, have them speak about their projects, and remind them that they are a vital part of our Rotary family.

This is also the season for planning—both for incoming leaders and for each club's future impact. I've been inspired by the energy and ideas flowing from PELS, District Innovate & Inspire Rotary Spring Edition, and club visits. Keep that momentum going. The seeds we plant now will shape our service for years to come.

Don't forget: DG Awards are due to your AG on 9 May. District Conference registration is open...you don't want to miss this celebration of the MAGIC OF ROTARY! 6-8 June in Franklin & Oil City. Golf, Pickleball, Rotary's Got Talent, Celebration of Life service, Youth Exchange, service projects, and so much more – definitely time for fellowship, celebration, and inspiration!

Thank you for your continued passion, your leadership, and your heart for service. Let's finish this year strong – together.

Let's keep growing, serving, and leading with heart.

In Rotary Spirit,

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Zachary Covington District Governor



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<u>Cranberry Twp -</u> <u>Sunrise Golf</u> <u>Classic</u>

<u>Celebrating</u>

Dates to Remember - May & June 2025

May - Youth Service Month

1 - District Governor Awards Submission Deadline - extended to 5/9

4-5 - ROVA retreat at Camp Nazareth Retreat Center, Mercer

15 - District Conference Golf Tournament & Pickleball Tournament Registration Deadline

23 - District Conference Registration Deadline

June - Rotary Fellowships Month

1 - 2025-26 Club Goals Entered in Rotary Club Central

6-8 - 2025 District 7280 Conference, Golf & Pickleball Tournament

8 - Installation of DG Aaron Sines, 3-5pm @ 104 Wilson Ave. Mercer

30 - Last Day to submit 2024-25 District Grant Final Report

***Note - July 1st is Deadline to Submit 2025-26 District Grant MOU

June 6-8th District Conference - Register NOW!

Peace in New Wilmington

<u>Greenville Golf</u> Outing

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2025 DISTRICT Conference

District Governor Zachary and the Franklin Rotary Club invite you to join us in the beautiful Oil Region of Venango County to CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF ROTARY!

June 6-8, 2025

6 JUNE - RENO & FRANKLIN

- GOLF, PICKLEBALL, SOCIALS, WINE TASTING
- PAUL HARRIS FELLOW & PDG RECEPTION, 'ROTARY'S GOT TALENT'

7 JUNE - VENANGO CAMPUS - OIL CITY

- BUSINESS MEETING, YOUTH EXCHANGE, CLARION COMMUNITY CHOIR
- SERVICE PROJECTS, DG AWARDS, KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE
- CLUB CELEBRATION SERVICE, INSPIRING KEYNOTE ADDRESS, DG AARON INSTALLATION

8 JUNE - FRANKLIN

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS BREAKFAST

CLICK BELOW OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



Mackenzie Bart, Conference Host Miss Ohio 2014 & Award Winning Meteorologist & Ventriloquist

D7280districtconference@gmail.com

Website: www.rotarydistrict7280.org

Email:

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.

2024-2025 District Conference Golf Outing

Big Mike and the Open World Program

Mt Jewett Hosts Easter Egg Hunt

<u>Big Bucks Bingo</u> <u>in Mercer</u>

Fun Times at Port Allegany Night at the Races

Mt Jewett Adopta-Highway Report

District Leaders

Zachary S. Covington District



Rich-Mar Rotary Satellite Shred-it Day!

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







Your local Rotarians are hosting a mobile shredding truck for Individuals and Businesses

What:

Bring your old paper documents, such as bank statements, credit card statements, confidential reports, papers, newspapers, magazines, mail, photos, file folders and blueprints to be safely destroyed by Shred-it Document mobile shredder *without having to leave your vehicle*. No need to remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands or small binders. We can NOT shred plastics, batteries, fabrics, clothes, or metals.

When:

Saturday, May 3rd

8:30am to 11:30am Rain or Shine

Where: Mars High School

520 PA-Rt. 228, Mars, PA 16046 Next to the Tennis Courts

Why:

Benefits the **Rich-Mar Rotary Satellite Club's** projects for the disadvantaged of Butler and Northern Allegheny counties and helps get rid of unwanted documents.

Cost:

Donations gratefully accepted! Your generosity is appreciated and will enable us to greatly impact those in need in our communities.

For more info on Shred-it Document Destruction, visit: www.shredit.com



Update from the Rich-Mar Appalachia Impact Team

The Rich-Mar Appalachia Impact team journeys to southwestern West Virginia each spring to assess the applications for the mission trip in June. They visit the applicants, determine which projects to tackle on the mission trip, and draw up construction designs and bills of materials.

This year, the first stop was the flood-devastated town of Welch, West Virginia. We delivered 2 complete kitchens worth of cabinets to the food bank in Welch, which is coordinating much of the flood relief. The cabinets were immediately loaded onto a trailer to be installed that afternoon. 17 boxes of shelf-stable food were also delivered to the food bank.

The next stop was the Mullens Opportunity Center (MOC) in Mullens, West Virginia. The MOC is a community resource focused on community, economic and individual development. Their facilities were also extensively damaged in the flood and 2 more kitchens worth of cabinets were donated to the facility. Finally, prior to beginning the application assessment, 3 large boxes of food were donated to the Mullens United Methodist Church, which maintains a "Blessing Box" to distribute food to those in need.

The trip was a great success, helping those in need and determining the projects for this year's mission trip, which included, among more minor repairs, roof replacement, installing a handicap bathroom, fixing flood damage to floors and walls, and a handicap ramp.

All the kitchen cabinets were generously donated by Kitchen Fair of Allison Park.



Titusville Oil Creek Classic



Saxonburg Derby Day Trolley Crawl



Cranberry Twp - Sunrise Golf Classic



It's Tee Time!

The Rotary does so many incredible things to support our local community, our country and our world. This is our single largest FUNdraiser of the year, and we really need your help to make it a HUGE success. A significant portion of the proceeds goes to fund various local scholarships. Price includes beverages on course, bag lunch and early dinner with awards ceremony.

Participants will enjoy a round on one of Pittsburgh's premier private courses while supporting charitable initiatives and programs that benefit our local community and beyond. Your participation—whether through playing or sponsorship—will help further Rotary International's mission, which includes promoting peace, fighting disease (such as polio eradication), providing clean water, supporting education, improving maternal and child health, growing local economies, and protecting the environment.

Guided by the motto "Service Above Self," Rotary strives to create lasting, positive change through humanitarian efforts, community development, and leadership initiatives worldwide.

For more details and registration information, visit our event website: <u>sunrise-</u><u>golf-classic.</u>

perfectgolfevent.com.

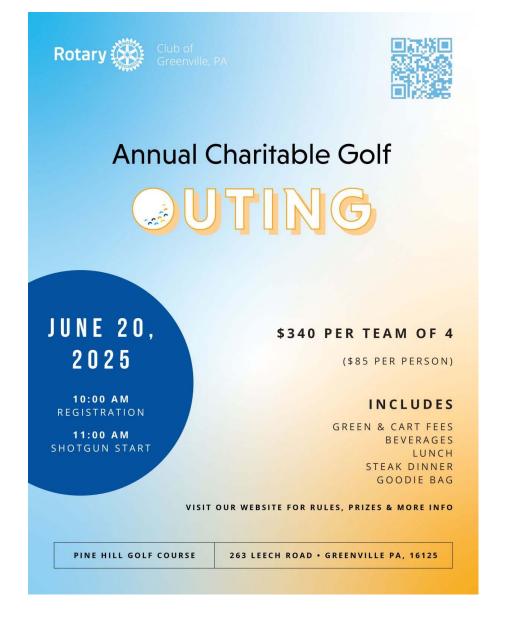
PLEASE CONSIDER a SPONSORSHIP!

Tee Signs, only \$100 and we're doing the Combo Deal again this year (for just \$150 you also get your signage at our Craft Ale Garden in July during the Cranberry Township Community Days) Numerous other sponsorship opportunities (Lunch, Drinks, Putting Contest, Beat the College Kids, Golf Carts, and the \$10,000 Hole-In-One Contest)



A celebration of peace includes games, activities, food and lots of fun. At 1:00 PM, we'll be dedicating a Rotary International Peace Pole. At 2:30, we're moving over to the Westminster campus for a Roundtable Discussion of War & Peace issues with World War II veteran, Wally King. Everyone's invited!

Greenville Golf Outing



Congratulations to the ShelterBox HERO Clubs

It is with great pleasure that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to these clubs on being honored with the Hero Award for your outstanding contributions to ShelterBox.

Thanks to your unwavering support, ShelterBox USA is making a life-changing difference in communities struck by disaster, both at home in southeast USA and Los Angeles and across 13 countries across the world. This comprehensive response demonstrated the strength of collaboration between ShelterBox USA and Rotary, in supporting communities in crisis. This year we celebrate 25 years in disaster relief.

About HERO club recognition: Gifts from clubs, individuals identifying as club members, or anyone recognizing your club all count toward ShelterBox HERO club recognition. A Bronze HERO recognition level is achieved at \$1,000, Silver at \$3,000, Gold at \$5,000 and Platinum at \$10,000 in total giving within the Rotary year. A club can level up throughout the Rotary Year. Rotaract, Interact, RYE, and Districts are eligible for HERO awards.

Thank you for being a ShelterBox HERO; Silver - Butler AM and Rich Mar Bronze - Butler, Cranberry Twp Sunrise, Dubois, New Wilminton, Saxonburg, Zelienople, and Keystone.

ShelterBox - Take the 25 for 25 Challenge



For 25 years, we've had one focus – shelter. It remains the same. We're determined that no one should be without shelter after disaster. ShelterBox has supported more than three million people in around 100 countries since 2000.

Our work has never been more urgent. Right now, over 120 million people worldwide have been forced from their homes by disasters, conflict and the climate crisis – and that number is growing every day. The Myanmar earthquake is the latest with an estimated 10,000 homes being lost.

Together we can do more. Our supporters, volunteers and partners are the power driving us forward and its only with your continued support that we'll be able to scale up to reach more people after disaster.

Help us be ready.

Take the 25 for 25 Challenge.

This challenge is simple.

Support ShelterBox in a way that makes use of the number "25".

Use these ideas or come up with your own to celebrate 25 years of bringing shelter to over 3 million people displaced by conflict and disaster.

- > Invite your ShelterBox Ambassador to your meeting to share 25 milestones.
- > Every member donates \$25 during one meeting.
- > A member donates \$25 per month for the year.
- > A club celebrates by donating \$2500.
- A district can make a goal of \$25,000.

We also invite non-monetary participation.

- > Share our social posts 25 times in 2025
- > Getting 25 people to like and follow ShelterBox USA
- > Sign up for our mailing list.

Together we can do more. Our supporters, volunteers and partners are the power that drives us forward and its only with your continued support that we'll be able to scale up to reach more people after disaster.

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/

Zelienople Raises Funds for Scholarship Program

On April 13, 2025, The Zelienople Rotary Club held a Pancake Breakfast to raise funds for its Scholarship Program. All proceeds directly benefited the club's ongoing efforts to support local students.





www.shelterboxusa.org



Rotary International Selects Ken Fleeson for Prestigious Award

Rotary International, a worldwide humanitarian and service organization, recently announced that Ken Fleeson was selected to receive its Service Above Self Award. Mr. Fleeson is a resident of Cranberry Township and a member of the Rotary Club of Rich-Mar.

The Service Above Self Award is described by Rotary International as a "prestigious award for Rotarians who demonstrate their commitment to helping others by volunteering their time and talents." Regional leaders of Rotary can make nominations for the award and the final selections are approved by the Rotary International Board of Directors. Zachary Covington, the leader of Rotary District 7280, which covers northwestern Pennsylvania, nominated Mr. Fleeson for the award.

"Ken has served our district" with many hours of his time in many ways, including as District Governor 2019-2020, District Trainer, District Rotary Foundation Chair, District Membership Chair, and more, said District Governor Zachary Covington.

The award was presented to Mr. Fleeson on Saturday, April 12 at a Rotary district event in Venango County attended by dozens of leaders of regional Rotary clubs. The award reads: "The Board of Directors of Rotary International, in support of District 7280's nomination, bestows this award upon Ken R. Fleeson who, through devotion and exemplary efforts, embodies Rotary's motto of Service Above Self."

In the following photo, Rotary District Governor Zachary Covington (left) presents the Service Above Self Award to Ken Fleeson (right).





Slippery Rock Supports North Country Trail Fundraiser

The Slippery Rock Rotary Club contributed \$1,000 towards The Butler Chapter of the North Country Trail's "Tool Storage Shed" Fundraiser. The fundraiser is to help finance a storage shed at Moraine for the tools needed to build and maintain the 60 miles of the North Country Trail that goes through Butler County. They are hoping to purchase two used cargo shipping containers that will be placed in Moraine at a cost of \$8500-\$10,000.

A plaque thanking the Rotary Clubs of Butler County who contribute will be prominently displayed on the buildings. Fifty-seven miles of the almost 5,000 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail runs through Butler County. It is a true treasure.



Contact information for any other club wanting to contribute: adamsjean16037@gmail.com, Jean Adams, 724-453-1685.

Rich-Mar Awards Grant to Hearts 4 Haiti



L to R: International Chair Lou Sigmund, President Dave Hein, Rev. Jim Lewis, President H4H

Hearts 4 Haiti is a Christian organization born of missions and striving to provide aid to impoverished people, especially those of Haiti. Our mission is to deliver medical, educational, and nutritional services and supplies to all that we serve. We partner with underprivileged people to help them gain and maintain a self-sustaining life. For more information: <u>https://</u> hearts4haiti.com/

Medical Equipment Needed



Rich-Mar Supports MHY Family Services

At our April 2 club meeting, MHY Family Services (Mars Home for the Youth) updated us on the great work they are doing at not only their site in Adams Township but all over the region. MHY's Longmore Academy has grown in serving students who need such an environment to succeed. The new director, Samantha Ellwood, has a great vision for the future, including working to start a kindergarten program and expanding mental health/special therapy programs and counseling services all over the region.

We celebrated our contributions and work at the site in Adams, dating back to at least 2012. Our latest contributions are for the new basketball hoops to be installed this summer, with the physical education director, Nick Panza, expressing his deep gratitude. We received a thank-you basketball from MHY which we have suggested be displayed at the gym entrance to celebrate our latest contribution. Check out the article on our club meeting and MHY's expanding services in the Butler Eagle posted on April 3.



Above (L to R): Karen Harvey, Dave Hein, Samantha Ellwood





Butler AM Continues Work on the Ellen's House Project

Another work day at Ellen's house project for the Gaiser Center. We worked on drywall installation as part of the completion project for the kids activities area.









Ellen's House is a women's living home for residents in recovery. Our service project is the attic area for children's visitation area.

Keystone Peace Pole Dedication

Can you help support the dedication of a peace pole on May 20th at 11:30 at the YMCA in Cranberry Twp.? PDG John Marshall has helped facilitate this event and their hope is that other clubs can be there when the Peace Pole is presented. Address of the YMCA:

2001 Ehrman Road Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Warren Supports Multisensory Easter Egg Hun

The Warren Rotary Club helped support the non-profit Heroes to host their inclusive multisensory Easter Egg Hunt by donating to the Easter Egg Prizes and being on hand to enthusiastically help "hide" the eggs and assist the children during the event. Held at the Rotary Lacy Park, a testament to the Warren Rotary Club's ongoing commitment to accessibility, the event provided a joyful experience for children of all abilities. The club's previous efforts in revamping Lacy Park into a multisensory playground, complete with handicap-accessible bathrooms, parking, and specialized play equipment, created the perfect welcoming environment for this unique hunt.



Cranberry Twp Sunrise to Award Three Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Cranberry Township Sunrise will be awarding three scholarships totaling \$7,000 in honor of lifelong Rotarians Jerry Andree, Frank Petrone, and Jerry Schreibeis.

The scholarships will be presented to the winners in the weeks ahead.

Big Mike and the Open World Program

The Cat Rotary Club in Armstrong County hosted six delegates from Kosovo. The

Open World program is a 10-day professional exchange built on the foundational values of authentic communication and immersive cultural experiences. The program begins in Washington, DC where delegates are introduced to the concepts of American federalism, culture and leadership.

Traveling to communities across the United States. Delegates meet with area leaders to share expertise and establish lasting partnerships. Enjoying the program, delegates stay with host families, giving them a firsthand view of American life.

Kosovo is a nation that is very young, 2008. They're a nation of 2 million people and the delegation was here to learn about our constitutional republic.

The delegation from Kosovo was introduced to the Senate on April 1, 2025.





Mt Jewett Hosts Easter Egg Hunt



Big Bucks Bingo in Mercer



Fun Times at Port Allegany Night at the Races



Photo by Pam Fischer

The second annual Night at the Races was held Saturday at Port Allegany Moose Lodge 460 as the Rotary Club welcomed Jason Christopher from Acclaim Productions LLC. Some contestants in the best hat contest were, from left, Kim Ramarge, Jill Stuckey, Joy Barnard and Sara Caskey.

Mt Jewett Adopt-a-Highway Report

Our club recently partnered with Boy Scout Troop 410 to conduct our annual litter pick-up on the Hazel Hurst Hill. We have kept this section clean for over 30 years. This year featured great weather and an even greater turnout of helpers! Just over 45 bags of garbage, at least 2 tires, and several hunks of metal were collected. It is disappointing to report that this is near average for us every year. EVERY YEAR. Please "Give a hoot, don't pollute!" Our stretch of Adopt-a-Highway is in the Upper Allegheny Watershed but also part of the spill response area for Mt. Jewett's water supply. Let's all do our part to keep our area clean. Thank you to our local VFDs for providing traffic control to our litter crew!

