

Rotary District 7600

Spirit of 7600



JUNE 2024

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District Leaders

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District Governor Elect
Patricia A. Edwards
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Lieutenant Governors
Stan Wall
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Area 1 - Steve Dunham
Area 2 - Jay Shively
Area 3 - Al Dorin
Area 4 - Mike Little
Area 5 - Bill Mulvihill
Area 6 - Jan Rowley
Area 7 - Bev Coleman
Area 8 - Doug Stanley
Area 9 - Thelma Riley-Atkins
Area 10 - Susan Blair
Area 11 - Bob Tassone
Area 12 - Bill Ziglar
Area 13 - Janet McCaskey
Area 14 - Paul Peter
Area 15 - David Oakley
Area 16 - Andre Elliott
Area 17 - Davetta Rinehart
Area 18 - Rich Salon

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District News



Greetings from halfway around the world from Virginia! Catherine and I and a number of our fellow D7600 Rotarians are in Singapore as I write this! What an adventure we are on. I will spend just a few minutes at the end of this month's Ramblings to highlight a couple of things, but my intent is to cover the Convention in more detail in the next (and my final Ramblings Column as District Governor!) next month.

We have had an incredible year of Creating Hope in the World this Rotary Year. I want to take the first part of this month's Ramblings to do a special shout out to some amazing Rotarians who are working behind the scenes to provide club support.

THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST! But there were several new initiatives that I want to recognize for their ability to take my Vision and make it a reality. As many of you know (and many of you may not know), we stood up three new committees this year: Empowering Girls, Mental Health Awareness and Disaster Response.

Robin Hillman (Goochland Rotary) and PDG Jerry Fields (James City County) stepped up to the plate when I asked them to develop a program that would allow our District members to have a template and contact list in case of a local emergency situation. They did that in spades and rolled it out at our District Conference. They are developing a list of resources that we hope to have available by the end of the Rotary Year. They did an initial training for Club Leadership and the goal is to continue to offer learning opportunities to District members moving forward. Congratulations on a JOB WELL DONE!

Next, as you know, one of President Gordon's Initiatives this year was to raise awareness about Mental Well Being and to start the conversation about removing the stigma attached to even having a conversation about it in our clubs. If you remember during my club visits, I spoke about this and why it was so important. At CPETS in 2023, I put out the call for volunteers and we had a great response. Rotarians from all around the District joined the task force and together developed a great set of tools and resources (you can access them here: <https://www.rotary7600.org/district-resources/mental-health-and-wellness/>). The person who took on the added work of leading this task force (and now a committee) was a brand-new member of the Western Henrico Rotary Club; Susanna Calvert. She took the vision and ran with it. Under her tutelage, the Committee FAR EXCEEDED my expectations! It was truly a team effort, and Susanna, I have to say thank you for providing your unique leadership style to GET ER DONE!

Finally, I want to call out our Empowering Girls Committee led by Tracy Keller (Great Bridge Rotary). She and her committee were incredible. They did multiple hands-on projects that many of our Rotarians and Clubs participated in - from a period poverty event at Rotary Youth Leadership Awards in 2023 (nothing says impact like the look on the faces of teenage boys when they see a roomful of feminine hygiene products!), to another Period Poverty event at District Conference, to a hands-on day of cleanup and painting a chain-link wire fence (this is a lot harder than it sounds!), to a special grant where the District partnered to purchase STEM Project Kits for Girls - this Committee raised the bar to a new level! I know this was a passion project for you, Tracy, but I am so delighted with what your committee accomplished! WELL DONE INDEED!

So what was your District Governor up to in May? Well, the answer is, the pace of travel tapered off significantly and I got to spend a lot of time doing stuff with my home club! I am going to brag on them a little bit for two reasons, one - I can and the second is because they have an incredible Club President and leadership Team! Our club is really a case study in leadership. Before COVID we were struggling to engage our members. Attendance was low, engagement was lower. Membership was stagnant. And then the world shut down. Our club didn't just survive, we thrived. In the face of the adversity of COVID our Club members responded in a fantastic way. First, we didn't miss a meeting. Second, we did multiple food drives and raised thousands of dollars for our local food pantry. But I can

multiple food drives and raised thousands of dollars for our local food pantry. But I can hear you now, why is the Governor still talking about COVID? Didn't that end several years ago? The answers are, yes, it ended several years ago, and I am still talking about it because COVID changed our Club for the better. We picked up a couple of new members during COVID, Al Mink and Andrea Kojan.

Right after COVID, Jeff Fuller joined. These three Rotarians are directly responsible for opening our club members' eyes to the benefits of CHANGE! Al and Andrea helped us move from in-person to virtual, to hybrid meetings with nary a hitch. Jeff brought a wealth of Rotary Leadership experience from his time as a Rotarian in North Carolina. Together, they were the catalyst that propelled us forward. Between them and Catherine's decision to serve two consecutive years as Club President, our club is now in the best leadership succession plan we have ever been in since our inception in 2006. We have a deep bench of current and future leaders. And why is this? Because it only takes 2 or 3 Rotarians with a passion to serve the club and community to propel a club to the next level. Sorry, not sorry, that was a Ramble even for me! But I wanted to make sure I didn't neglect my home club. They are the reason I was chosen to serve you as our Governor. Without them, I would never have joined Rotary.

In addition, I got to participate in several workdays for our District Grant creating a client choice Food Pantry, hang out with the Club as they presented a \$2,000 scholarship to a deserving Interacter and they presented some well deserved Awards to another group of Interacters as well as participating in a Rise Against Hunger Event where all the money was raised by the Club's two Interact Clubs (Fluvanna County High School and Fork Union Military Academy)

A Farewell Message from the District Newsletter Editor:

By JoAnn Meaker

I began working as the district's newsletter editor in January 2018 under the direction of PDG John Padgett. After six and a half years (80 issues), I am stepping down and turning over the editor position to Dianne Gordonn.

I want to thank all those clubs and individuals who consistently sent articles and images directly to me and all those clubs who faithfully posted news on their club Facebook pages. That is where I get the items for the newsletter. Over the course of the month, I would collect these items (scanning and saving things from Facebook and the ones emailed to me directly) and save them all in a folder on my laptop.

After the 25th of the month (deadline for submissions), I begin the process of creating the issues using DACdb EZ-Story. Once the EZ stories were created and converted into the EZ Bulletin, I would turn to Carol Woodward, my eagle-eyed proofreader, who would make sure that all the links worked properly and point out to me details that needed attention before final publication. I give a big shout-out and heartfelt thank you to you, Carol!

Most of the time, each issue went together pretty smoothly – but there were a couple of times along the way that I almost threw in the towel and quit. I learned the hard way that hitting the SAVE button often was critical. Unlike other word document software programs, DACdb does not automatically save your work. If you don't hit SAVE and you walk away from your computer, your log-in to DACdb times out. When you return to continue working, you need to log in again and voila - all that you hadn't saved is gone. Ouch! Another time, I was almost finished with the issue when I hit the wrong key, and everything was erased! Double ouch!! I had to start again from scratch. Luckily, the Word documents and image files are saved on my laptop, so the recreation of that month's issue didn't take too, too long.

You may or may not know that in 2019 I moved out of D7600 to be closer to my mom (now 94 years old) here in Melbourne, Florida, and since then I've been the editor of both D7600 and D6930's newsletters monthly. I've loved straddling both districts, keeping in touch with folks from 7600 while making new friends in 6930. My growing responsibilities in D6930 (I am my club's treasurer and work as both Public Image Chair and on the Foundation team as PolioPlus Chair) have me so busy that something had to give.

I want to thank each District 7600 Governor (John, Susan, Clenise, Judy, Debbie, Kenny, and Rudy) and each District Foundation Chair (Chuck, Stephen and John) who I worked with putting together each issue all these years! And thank you again, Carol. It's been a pleasure!

So, for the next issue of the Spirit and moving forward – I direct you to contact Dianne Gordonn at dianne.gordonn@rwtowne.com. Carol Woodward will also continue working with her. I'm sure the Spirit is in good hands.

CPETS 2024 Service Project

By Joy Kline



In March, Presidents-Elect from multiple districts (7600, 7610, 7620, 7630) convened for Chesapeake PETS, where they underwent training and engaged in a Service Project. Prior to the event, PEs collaborated with their respective clubs to gather basic and travel-sized toiletries. The aim was to assemble kits for distribution among various communities, including homeless and transitional individuals.



Originally targeting 1000 kits, the initiative surpassed expectations, resulting in over 2000 kits! Special thanks go to the PEs for championing this service project.

The following organizations gratefully received these packages in District 7600. Virginia Supportive Housing, Goochland Cares, Liberation Veteran Services-Richmond, Alamo Recovery Center-Petersburg, Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and Eastern Shore, Newport News Four Oaks Day Service Center, and Union Mission in Norfolk



RLI:

From Facebook



Rotary Leadership Institute Learning event. July 13, 2024, Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center, Glen Allen, VA 23059. Hosted by District 7600.

Mental Health Minute:

by Susanna Calvert



District 7600's Mental Health Task Force has been encouraging Rotarians all year to build their resilience skillset and awareness about mental health and wellbeing. Though our focus will be shifting to youth under DG Joy Kline's leadership, we hope that you will continue to grow your own mental health awareness, self-care, and support for others – especially youth – in the community.

Please use your Mental Health Minute in June to reflect on how you'd like to deepen your journey and/or resilience in yourself or your community going forward. Thank you DG Rudy for your leadership on this subject this past year.

As you may know, the mental health crisis affects not only adults but our youth. Suicide is the #2 cause of death in youth, with 36.7% report having persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. We need your help and support recruiting high school students (and their caregivers where possible) who wish to build their resilience skills and/or learn to co-facilitate youth resilience education.

We are inviting INTERACTERS and other youth across the District. Please contact Susanna Calvert at Susanna@HealingEdu.org if you have a nomination, wish to volunteer, or if you and/or your club wishes to sponsor or support this important program. Together we can create a healthier, more vibrant community of young people in our District!

Club News

James City County Club:

Paul Miyamasu



On 6 May, James City County Rotarians participated in the annual Water for People (WFP) golf outing at Kingsmill. By providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in the world is a Focus Area for Rotary International. 2.2 billion people globally still lack safely managed drinking water.



places the organization in the top 1% of all charities. WFP is recognized in the US as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. *Shown are JCC Rotarians Jack Clark, Ron Lynde, Doug Strup and Gary Chenault.*

To support this effort the club (Breakfast/Satellite) made a \$1,000 donation to the Water for People Williamsburg organization.

Shown are JCC Rotarian Jack Clark presenting the check to Eric Marshall, the WFP Williamsburg Golf Tournament Coordinator.



The James City County Club is excited to invite you to our next Club Golf Outing/Fundraiser at the ever-popular Kingsmill River Course on August 20th. Donâ€™t hesitate to register (your payment confirms your reservation). Our last several golf outings have been completely sold out.

Click the links to see all the [REGISTRATION](#) and [SPONSORSHIP](#) information. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you August 20th.



On 23 May, James City County Rotary Club (Breakfast / Satellite) helped in placing more than 500 flags on the graves of veterans at the Williamsburg Cedar Grove Cemetery to honor Memorial Day. Cemetery Caretaker Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and Rotarian Gary Chenault provided the invocation. Other representatives included the Williamsburg Police and Fire departments, Patrick Henry Chapter of Disabled American Veterans, Salvation Army and Dominion Energy. *Shown are Rotarians Neva Lynde, Darlene Byrd, Mary Griffith, Gary Chenault, and Paul Miyamasu.*

On 25 May, James City County Rotary Club (Breakfast / Satellite) members helped to install 100 US Flags to honor our veterans on Memorial Day. The flags will be flown through next week. This is an annual community project event to include Independence Day and Veterans Day. For more info, go to <https://www.jccrotary.org>. This project was led by Rotarians Gary Chenault and Roger Saunders.



Portsmouth and Churchland Club: *Steve Milner*

The Churchland and Portsmouth Rotary Clubs will continue a 38-year annual fund-raising tradition by hosting the Port City Seafood Festival on Friday, June 21, 2024, at Portsmouth Park in that cityâ€™s downtown area. It will be held from 4-8 p.m. and will feature a tasty and varied menu of seafood and other dishes, live music, dancing, and adult and other beverages. The event will be located at 2 Harbor Court, 23704, near the location of the former Holiday Inn. After expenses, all money raised will support both clubsâ€™ many community projects.

For ticket information and more information, please go to [HERE](#).

Ashland Club: *Rachel Swinford*

On Thursday, April 18, 2024, The Ashland VA Rotary Club presented a donation of support to the Ashland Police Foundation. The check was presented to Rhett Townsend, President of the Foundation.

The purpose of the Ashland Police Foundation is to help officers in times of need. Following an officerâ€™s tragic loss, it was determined that a benevolent



resource was necessary to help those in the department during these difficult times. Since its creation, the Foundation not only supports officers but gives back to the community it serves. It is funded through donations and annual fundraisers.



For more information about the Ashland Police Foundation, go to www.ashlandpolicefoundation.org.

Photo Caption: Members of Ashland Police Department were present to support the Foundation. Capt. Marie Kemp (left), Rhett Townsend, President of the Foundation, Mary Kay Hacker, President of the Ashland VA Rotary Club, Chief Troy Aronhalt, Lt. Ethan Hicks.

Warwick at City Center Newport News

Gee Horton

ROTARY CLUB JOINS FORCES WITH RISE AGAINST HUNGER TO FIGHT GLOBAL HUNGER



The Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center Newport News, Yorktown Rotary Club, Newport News Rotary Club partnering with Rise Against Hunger in a monumental effort to address food insecurity in developing nations packed 30,000 bags of food at Patrick Henry Mall, Newport News, Virginia on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and

distribution of food and other aid to people in developing nations.

Together, Rotarians and 100 volunteers dressed in red hairnets worked two shifts to accomplish this massive event. Organizing, sorting, prepping, and packing the food was one component. Raising money was the first step to buying the food. From Rotary Club members, to enthusiastic community volunteers, the outpouring of support was nothing short of inspiring. Mike Gleason, Warwick at City Center Community Service Chair, was instrumental in the success of this event. His involvement played a pivotal role in organizing this event, which saw volunteers packing 30,000 bags of food that contained essential nutrients, rice, and soy. These meals will feed 140 students for lunch an entire school year.



"As people were walking by, a group of four young Navy Ensigns joined us for most of the second shift," stated Gleason. "It was one of their birthdays, and they stayed to help us finish." We impacted many lives in this one event.

Kevin Lyles posting this on Facebook. "So, you might think the feel-good story of the day was 30,000 meals that four Rotary clubs got together and packed. The Warwick at City Center Club, Virginia Peninsula Club, the Yorktown Club, and the Newport News club worked on this project. That's pretty cool.

But the really great story today is these gentlemen were walking in the Patrick Henry Mall, where we were doing the packing, and asked what was going on. When told we were packing meals they all jumped in to spontaneously give us a hand. The really cool kicker: They're all in the Navy assigned to the Nimitz. One of them has a birthday today. We sang Happy Birthday to him. Thank you for your service, gentlemen, and for stepping up to volunteer.



AND...



Such a great night for the Rotary Club of Warwick at City Center, Newport News! Tonight we celebrated our [10th Annual Bacon, Beer & Bourbon Bash](#) ! 10 years of raising funds to give back to our community. Thanks to all of our sponsors, restaurants, Rotarians, volunteers, attendees and the Virginia Living Museum who make this event such a success!

South Richmond:
By Mason Lemmon



We have another event coming up, our first ever Speakers Forum. The date is June 7th 2024 from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. We are offering a general admission ticket for \$50 + processing fees, and we are also offering a VIP ticket that costs \$125 + processing fees. The event will be held at the Perkinson Center located at: 11810 Centre St, Chester, VA 23831.

Our first speaker will be Retired General David H. Berger, a retired United States Marine Corps general who served as the 38th commandant of the Marine Corps from 2019 to 2023. General Berger will be speaking about threats

facing our nation and our ability to respond to them. Our moderator will be Ed Tillett. More information can be found at: <https://www.southrichmondrotary.com/speakers-forum>

Bon Air Club:
Facebook

Our Club is proud to have adopted Old Bon Air Road and members were at it again this past Saturday with a road cleanup. Making a difference one bag of trash at a time, actually 10 60-gallon bags this time!

South Hill Club:
Facebook

South Hill Rotary Club highway clean up.



Western Henrico Club:
by Jim Heck

In 1983, members of MCV Hospital, now VCU Medical Center, purchased a former hotel in downtown Richmond with the goal of providing lodging for patients who had to travel to Richmond for vital medical treatment.

At that time it was a 28-bed facility, known as the MCV/VCU Hospital Hospitality House and served patients and their caregivers through 1994. The current 117-bed former hotel became the Doorways in 2015. It is the second-largest healthcare hospitality house in the nation and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

The Doorways provides a healing, emotionally supportive environment for those who need to be close to the hospital but not far from the feeling of "home." It is Richmond's premier provider of temporary lodging and non-medical services to patients and their

premier provider of temporary lodging and non-medical services to patients and their families referred through our participating Richmond-area hospital partners. Together, we recognize that experiencing a medical crisis is hard enough, and dealing with it away from home can make it even harder."



On May 14, 2024, the Western Henrico Rotary Club prepared and served dinner for more than 40 individuals who were receiving medical care at VCU Medical Center. The joy of serving these families is the type of reward that defines Rotary and the Western Henrico Rotary Club.

Suntree Rotary Club - Clubs Helping Clubs Across Districts, Across the World:

by JoAnn Meaker

When I first thought of joining Rotary, I wanted something my husband, Norm and I could do together and continue wherever we happened to be located. I was invited to become a member of the Ontario/Walworth Rotary Club (D4800) in my town of Ontario, NY back in 2009 and thought it would be a perfect fit! Little did I know how much Rotary would become a part of my life. We jumped in and began to work on local service projects as many Rotarians do.



In 2011 we moved to Glen Allen, Virginia and joined the Hanover County Club in D7600. This is where we began to spread our wings and take on more responsibilities and learned about Rotary's impact not only in the local community but in the world. The Hanover Club worked alongside the Monrovia Rotary Club on a Global Grant in Liberia, and Norm helped write the grant. Helping to build a deep well at the elementary school in Monrovia was an awesome project.

After moving to Melbourne, Florida, in 2019, we joined the Suntree Rotary Club. Again, we worked on local projects. This club supports the local Boys & Girls Club with school supplies, an Easter Egg Hunt, and an end-of-school year picnic. We help at Children's Hunger Project (packaging food items into baggies that they distribute to children who are on free or reduced lunch so they have something to eat over the weekend. We do quarterly road clean-ups and help maintain the Suntree Rotary Park that the club helped develop. We go into schools to do Josh the Otter (a water safety program designed for children under the age of 5). The club hosts a Christmas party at the local day care center for adults with Alzheimer's.

And last year, the club embarked on a Global Grant. One of our club members has had a long-term relationship with doing work in La Paz, Honduras. We began fundraising for this grant application and reached out to our club members, our district clubs, but also beyond. Clubs in other districts in Florida and clubs in Maine joined in making donations. The Hanover County Club in D7600 supported us, and we thank them all for their participation.

The approved grant (clean water and sanitation) is providing a deep well for the community of Cane, La Paz, Honduras. It will also provide water filters, pilas (concrete water storage structures) and latrines for the community of Guachipilin. We already have reports of the successful installation of each of these.



The latrines, water filters and pias are making a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of people in this impoverished



area of Honduras.

This is what being a Rotarian is all about - doing good in the local community, doing good in the world and clubs working together to make it happen. Thank you again, Hanover Country Rotary Club for your support in our Suntree Rotary Club's Global Grant.

I am humbled to be a part of such a great organization.



Foundation News



Gratitude: The Heartbeat of Rotary

By John Padgett, District Rotary Foundation Chair



In the late 1960s, a young U.S. Navy pilot named Charles Plumb was shot down during the Vietnam War. He ejected and parachuted into enemy hands, where he spent six years as a prisoner of war. He survived the ordeal, and years later, in a twist of fate, he met a man who approached him with a simple question: "Are you Plumb, the Navy pilot?" When Charles confirmed, the man replied, "I packed your parachute." The chance meeting profoundly impacted Plumb, who realized how many people were involved in ensuring his safety and success, often without acknowledgment. This story embodies the essence of gratitude, a sentiment deeply woven into the fabric of the Rotary Foundation's work.

As we reflect on the 2023-24 Rotary year, the Rotary Foundation has much to be grateful for. The success of our initiatives and the profound impact on communities worldwide are a testament to the unwavering dedication of our Rotarians, partners, and volunteers. Clearly, the District Rotary Foundation found ways to "Create Hope in the World." As we round the last lap, for the current Rotary year, it is time to recognize the contributions of everyone who, like the parachute packer, works behind the scenes to make our mission a reality.

Acknowledging Our Foundation Team

The accomplishments of the past year are a collective triumph. The Rotary Foundation team has been instrumental in driving our mission forward. From eradicating polio to providing clean water and sanitation, and supporting education, our projects have reached new heights. The need continues to outstrip the resources. Consequently, the development team continues to strategize about how to encourage a culture of giving throughout the District. This success is not just measured in numbers but in the lives touched and communities transformed.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Foundation team whose tireless efforts have made a significant difference. I am hesitant to include names. I always miss someone, or my words

will fall short in expressing my gratitude. Yet, there are countless volunteers that have provided instruction, inspiration, guidance and hope as part of the Foundation's leadership. We all owe you a sincere debt of gratitude. Through your eyes, you help us all envision a world where hope, progress, and peace prevail.

Impactful Projects and Initiatives

The 2023-24 year has seen remarkable achievements. Our projects have provided critical healthcare services, educational opportunities, and economic support to countless individuals. These initiatives would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors and the hard work of our volunteers.

Past Rotary International President Jennifer Jones remarked, "Gratitude is the foundation of our work. It reminds us of the importance of giving back and recognizing the contributions of others." I can never repay my debt to the amazing and inspiring volunteers that comprise the District Rotary Foundation Committee. Together, you have done amazing things. Thank you. I look forward to walking with you in the coming year as we continue this journey.

My Rotary Journey – I was Born to be a Rotarian

By Michael Broadhurst, Rotary Club of Portsmouth

I have always been a helper. I have wanted to give more than I could afford to anyone who needed it. I have been on more non-profit boards of directors than I can recall. I was born to be a Rotarian.

I joined Rotary in 1988 after about 10 years of seeking some sort of civic-help outlet. I was always too young, too inexperienced, too low level, too . . . Finally, I began my career as a financial advisor/planner/investment counselor in 1986. After he realized I was not going to fail, my brother-in-law, Hank Goolsby, also a retired Financial Advisor, agreed to sponsor me for the Rotary Club of Portsmouth. I was honored to be accepted into such an august group of MEN – that's right, at that time, there were no women allowed. That error changed later the same year – to almost everyone's welcoming relief, the Supreme Court said that Rotary and all other similar clubs must allow women into their ranks. Remember, Rotary sued to get just such a pronouncement, a definitive decision to include women. It was good and Portsmouth admitted our first woman – Debra DiCroce - very shortly after the decision.



Again, I was thrilled to be a part of this selective group of people who were all so successful. I was a bit intimidated by their prowess and maturity. Then, as I began to mature, I realized that almost everyone feels that way when thrown into a new group of good people, and it was that they were all good people that cemented my membership.

I understood the purpose of a Foundation and I saw just how important it could be to the ability of Rotarians to accomplish bigger tasks. I made my first donation to The Rotary Foundation in 2002. It had taken me 14 years to scrape together my first contribution. About a year later, I made another donation, and the club matched my first \$500 to the Foundation. I was a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF)! That was always something that seemed so far away back in 1988 when I was in a new career (no salary!) and could barely afford the dues. That the club gave \$500 in my name to the Foundation had a profound effect on my psyche and my need to always pay debts. I swore to myself I would repay that \$500 to someone else so they and many others, could –pay-it-forward–.

Back to my Rotary journey. I have served in many Rotary roles, both in my club and at the district level. I have administered my club's website and been the Chair of my club's music committee after Eddie Allen's retirement from conducting. I served as President of my club and ultimately was asked to serve as the Club's Rotary Foundation Chair, in which capacity I still serve.

It was somewhere during my club presidency in 2011-2012 that Chuck Arnason approached me about being more active in the Foundation. He was in line to be District Governor – not that I really knew what that was, but he ASKED me to think about giving more. Simply, the fact that he asked me gave me the impetus to do more. Shortly after, I became a PHF+1 and a Benefactor and I used my accumulated points to make my wife a PHF.

After my term as president, perhaps in 2012 or 2013, a member of our club, Milt Brown, was finishing his term as a district Foundation Advocate and arranged for me to take his place. I was thrilled, but to Milt's disappointment, instead, I was appointed as a District Area Governor under District Governor Walter Capâ Neilsen to finish out an unexpired term as his AG. Then Gov. Chuck Arnason asked me to help him as AG. I continued in that role for Governors Stephen Beer, and Gary Chenault. I never got to be the Foundation Advocate before that position was merged into the Area Governor's position, but I still got to tell people about the Foundation in my Area for several years.

It was also in 2012 that I discovered Rotary Direct, the automated contribution service offered by the RIF. I shortly became a PHF+2. In 2013, I had begun showing some success in my investment advisory practice and, in appreciation for work done well, a client donated \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation in my name to make me a PHF+3. My own donations through Rotary Direct ultimately resulted in my becoming a Major Donor in 2018.

During the last few years, District 7600 instituted a program where they would match foundation points for contributions made on –Giving Tuesday– in April of each year. That was a tremendous success and I thought, why not do the same inside our club? I had accumulated goo-gobs of points and I had seen what happens when a member passes away with points – that must be the only thing you *can* take with you, because at the member's death, the points disappear from any ability to use them here on earth. I have encouraged a few elders to donate some of their points to deserving Rotarians as appropriate.

I used some of my accumulated points to also match members' contributions; they got a double match for their –Giving Tuesday– contributions. I have done that for several

a double match for their age-giving Tuesday contributions. I have done that for several years and our club has begun to show progress toward advancing Paul Harris Fellowships.

My wife is very supportive of our Rotary association including the gifts to the Foundation. She is as proud as I am to wear the Major Donor pin to Rotary Functions. She has been with me to the International Convention, numerous District Conferences and dinners untold. She is truly a "Rotary Ann" - as they used to say.

In 2022, Steven Beer invited me to participate in the Million Dollar Dinner designed to raise money for the Foundation. I could not afford the price of the ticket outright, so I upped my monthly Rotary Direct contribution by a couple of hundred dollars to pay for the ticket in time for the dinner. It happened.

I then saw how close that had gotten me to the Major Donor Level 2 status, so I kept the increased amount going into the Foundation until I had reached the required level in February of this year.

While I am not pursuing any further recognition levels at this time, I still believe in the works of Rotary and the Foundation and will continue to be a member of the Paul Harris Society.

South Hill Rotary's Proud PolioPlus Society Members



Randy Cash had the honor of distributing PolioPlus Certificates and pins to four members of the South Hill Club, from left, Randy Cash, Bruce Settle, Raymond Thomas, and Jimmie Crowder.

Members of the PolioPlus Society commit to donating \$100 each year to the Rotary Foundation to combat polio.

It is easy to do. Go to www.rotary.org and sign into My Rotary. Once you are logged in, click the blue DONATE button at the top right of the page. Once the new page loads, click on PolioPlus Fund and scroll down to complete the information.

You'll be clicking on the recurring donation button and deciding on how much and how often and filling in your payment method. Your name and contact information should automatically populate. That's it!! Rotary takes over from there and will give you notices of your donations as they are made.

Have questions? Reach out to David Rosenthal for more information.

A Short Peek at the 2024 District Grant Applications

May 15th was the submission deadline for the 2024-2025 district grants. The grants committee was expecting a strong application this year and that expectation was met. The District Designated Funds (DDF) available for this grants year is approximately \$140,000 which is a healthy increase from the prior Rotary year. However, as anticipated, the DDF requested from the 19 grant applications totals in excess of \$168,704.

Of those 19 applications, there are 9 multi-club grants. Economic and Community Development, Literacy, and Food Insecurity are the most common proposed projects. There are even two bicycle-oriented grant applications



If all of the grant applications could be approved in full, the total value of the grants would be \$208,095. This kind of potential investment in good work in our communities is an enormous impact. Unfortunately, not all of the grants can be approved, and some may be approved for a lower amount of DDF. In the next week or two, the district grants committee will be assessing the grant applications. Wish them well in their assessments and deliberations

New Paul Harris Society Member: by Paul Miyamasu



On 7 May, James City County Rotary Club Foundation Chair Jerry Fields presented a certificate and pin to recognize Rotarian Travis Rabb as a member of the Paul Harris Society of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

He is being recognized for his generous and continual assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world. Shown are club president-elect Travis Rabb and club Foundation Chair Jerry Field.



Polio Ball Games:

The Richmond Flying Squirrels Game is Thursday June 6 at 6:35pm. Tickets are \$12 and the Squirrels management will donate \$2 back to EPN for all tickets purchased. To order tickets contact Garrett Erwin at 804-359-3866 x327. The masterful Squirrels (AA affiliate of the San Francisco Giants) will be taking on the Altoona Curve of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The Altoona Curve is in the Eastern League and is the AA affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates. It is debatable whether the team is named after the nearby Horseshoe Curve or after the curveball which is a type of pitch for those of you new to the game of baseball.

Chili Peppers game is Wednesday June 12 at 7:00 pm when they play the Wilson Tobs. The Tobs are based in Wilson, North Carolina and are in the Coastal Plain League of the NCAA -sanctioned collegiate summer baseball league. The team mascot is a tobacco worm named "Slugger". The Chili Peppers joined the league in 2020 but didn't play that year due to Covid. Their first home game was against the Tobs in 2021. The Chili Peppers offer two ticket options \$14 just for a ticket or \$20 for ticket and food (2 entrees, chips and soft drink or water). They will donate \$4 back to EPN for all tickets purchased. To order Tickets use the QR code on the flyer.

The Tri City