



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

**Rotary**  
**District 7670**



*April 2024 Newsletter*  
***District Governor Sean Gibson***

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## **April is Environment Month**



### **Rotary shares an interest in protecting our common legacy: the environment.**

We are committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment. We empower communities to access grants and other resources, embrace local solutions, and spur innovation in an effort to address the causes and reduce the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

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## DG Sean's Stuff



**DG Sean's Stuff**



I want to give everyone a warm April welcome as we get into the final quarter of the Rotary year. This month is certainly a time to celebrate the great accomplishments of our Rotarians in the greatest district in Rotary. There are a lot of things happening... First up, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, better known as RYLA. This event takes place April 11 - 13. I want to salute the great efforts of our District Youth Service Chair Mike Stevenson and his team as they make last-minute preparations to inspire over 100 rising high school students and future leaders of tomorrow.

Secondly, we have our annual celebration of all the good work we've done on April 19-20 in Greenville, SC. We want to see you there, as this year, Past District Governor and Conference Chair Tiffany Ervin has an amazing show planned!! We've made it very easy and convenient this year for everyone with your choice of a full conference registration or a one-day registration of either Friday or Saturday. Either way, it's gonna be fabulous and First Lady Deb and I would love to see you there!! Let's party!!

This week, I want to give a couple shout-outs to some folks, which I don't usually do since all of us do great work, but this is OVER THE TOP. First, a big THANK YOU to Marion President Chip Cross and his group for donating \$20,000 to McDowell Tech and additionally through grant matching and sponsorship became a \$70,000 endowment scholarship or scholarships to be awarded to deserving students. That's what one of my mentors, Past District Governor Dennis Sanders, often says "Rotary Magic" at work! The second shout out goes to Denver Lake Norman president Andie Taylor and her group...how about this...she has 62 members in her club, and they have given over \$26,000 to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund this year!! That's well over \$400 per capita and a little over 10% of the whole district's giving to the Annual Fund to date!! If you haven't given to the foundation yet, please do so...it does great things locally and worldwide!!

Looking forward to a fun and amazing April and I will see you soon!

Thank you for all you do for Rotary!!

Sean

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## President-Elects Attend PETS



.District 7670 President-Elects attended the required President-Elect Training Seminar (known as PETS). The intensive training ensures that come July 1, each Club President has the

knowledge and resources to successfully lead their Club for the upcoming Rotary year.

Forty-one of the 44 President-Elects\* traveled to Greensboro, NC in mid-March for the Carolinas' PETS. Back in the mid-90s, our District joined forces with six other Districts to provide this training. PEs from all over North Carolina and half of South Carolina meet over a two and half day period. Additionally, the District Governor string and Assistant Governors also attended sessions to prepare them for their year. All told, there were approximately 500 people in attendance!

With such a large group of Rotary Leaders being brought together, the Carolinas' PETS team is able to secure truly amazing and inspiring keynote speakers including Rotary International Trustee Marty Helman, Past Rotary International Director John Smarge, Social Media Expert Jason Browne, and Dan Quinn, a local (Greensboro) Rotarian with a heartwarming story about a program that he created.

Carolinas' PETS offers several breakout sessions with PEs from similar-sized Clubs to learn about Membership, Foundation, Public Image and Effective Leadership. These sessions were led by a team of Past District Governors including our own Immediate Past District Governor Tammy Mosteller, and PDG (07-08) Bill Shillito. District 7670 PEs had the opportunity to meet their Assistant Governor and the District Governor string, get to know each other, and learn about key dates and goals for 24-25. Stay tuned for future District Bulletins to read about the goals and the strategies to achieve them.

All PEs were "pinned" with a Club President pin at the final lunch on Saturday before heading back home. Congratulations to all of our President-Elects and Assistant Governors for investing their time to be prepared to lead our Clubs for the 2024-2025 Rotary year.

\*The other three PEs were unavailable to attend the Carolinas' PETS so they participated another District's PETS.

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**Registration is now open! Join us on Sat. May 4th**



Invitation to Club Officers and Committee Chairs to attend the annual District Training Assembly

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

**WHO:** Club Officers and Committee Chairs as well as members interested in learning more about Club Leadership positions.

**WHAT:** District Training Assembly.

**WHERE:** Mars Hill University, Day Hall (20 minutes north of Asheville)

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 4, 2024; registration and breakfast from 9:00am to 9:30am with the opening plenary speakers from 9:30am to 10:15am. Breakout sessions will run from 10:15am to 11:15am.

**PLENARY SESSION:** Welcome from DGE Connie (Magic of Rotary and the Peace Pole Project) and an update on Polio cases in the world by Zone 33 PolioPlus Chair Nancy Barbee.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** The following breakout sessions will run concurrently: Club Treasurer, Club Secretary, Club Public Image Chair, Club Membership Chair, Club Foundation Chair, Club Youth Service/Ryla Chair, and Club DEI Chair.

**WHY:** These sessions are offered by the District Leadership Team members to prepare Club Officers and Committee Chairs for their roles. Additionally, we encourage new Club Members to attend to learn first-hand what is involved in serving as a Club Officer or Club Committee Chair.

**HOW TO REGISTER:** An email was sent to all current Club Presidents and President-Elects but members can register by logging into DACdb and then clicking on the District Tab, select the Calendar Icon, then select District Events in the upper section. Scroll down to May 4 and click on Register.

**COST:** This is a free learning event to anyone interested in learning more about a variety of Club Leadership roles. Registration is required but there is no cost to attend.

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## "Cut Down The Net" with former Tarheel Matt Doherty

By Tiffany Ervin



We are thrilled to announce the keynote speaker for the closing session of the **2024 Rotary District 7670 All-Star Weekend** (April 19-20, 2024) is former UNC Tarheel player and coach Matt Doherty. Following his presentation, DG Sean will present his annual awards, and those recognized will have a chance to help "cut down the net" as we wrap up an incredibly successful year!

Coach Doherty will speak directly to leadership and what it takes to overcome adversity and build a winning culture for your team, whether it's at work, in the community or in your Rotary Club.

Registration is only available only through April 12 and a limited number of hotel rooms are available at the Hyatt Regency.

If you aren't able to join us for the entire weekend, we have added "single night" tickets for both Friday's pep rally (featuring CART researcher Dr. Antoine Louveau and [entrepreneur Grace Key](#)) and Saturday's awards dinner with [Matt Doherty](#). You do NOT have to register for these if you have a full weekend registration. If you can only attend part of the weekend, we hope you'll take advantage of

this opportunity to join us on Friday OR Saturday. These events are in the DACDB calendar under the "multi district events" category!

**HOST HOTEL:** Hyatt Regency Greenville (220 N Main St) - Reduced Rate of \$169 per night for King or Double Queen. Reservations must be made separately from event registration. Last date to book is April 4th!

[To reserve your room, click here!](#)

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## Rotary Jersey To Benefit The CART Fund

By Tiffany Ervin

[ORDER A JERSEY - CLICK HERE!](#)



Four Seasons Rotary excited to offer this limited-edition Rotary jersey for sale with all proceeds going to help find a prevention, treatment or cure for Alzheimer's Disease through [The CART Fund](#).

Jerseys feature the #24 for this year and were sponsored by United Community Bank. They are available for purchase for \$40 each (including shipping).

CART is a 501(c)3 organization that provides seed grants to researchers in the US. The jerseys are licensed and approved by Rotary International for a one-time offering. Supplies are limited and will not be restocked.

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## Dementia Live Experience at Conference

By Tiffany Ervin

We are excited to announce the addition of Dementia Live experience to our District Conference All-Star Weekend in Greenville, SC! Participation is free for anyone who wants to learn more.



Dementia Live® is a high impact, dementia simulation experience that immerses participants into life with dementia, resulting in a deeper understanding of what it's like to live with cognitive impairment and sensory change.

[You can learn more about this experience here.](#)

Trained volunteers will lead the experience on Friday (Noon-5pm) and Saturday (1-4pm).

[To sign up for one of the available time slots, click here.](#)

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## The CART Fund Awards Record Grants in 2024

By Tiffany Ervin



It's official! It's a RECORD-SETTING year for grant awards from [#TheCARTFund](#)! Thanks to your support, we are proud to present a record \$1.4 MILLION DOLLARS to FIVE researchers this year!

The scientific review panel recommended fully-funding the top 5 researchers. You can meet them at the CART Annual Meeting in Columbia, SC, on May 7! [Register today in DACDB](#) or via the [website](#). If you can't join us in person, there is a free registration for anyone who wants to join via zoom on Tuesday. We would love to have a large representation from District 7670!

Location: Seawell's (1125 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC)

**Monday, May 6 Training** - FREE to attend and open to ANYONE who wants to learn more about CART

Volunteer Training 2-4pm (Public Image, Finances, District or Club CART Chairs and MORE)

Reception 5:30-7pm (Smoked, 1643 Main Street, Columbia)

Group Dinners 7pm-until (Dutch Treat)

**Tuesday, May 7 Annual Meeting** (10am-4pm) \$45 includes lunch

Registration/Networking 9-10am

Session 1 (in person & online) 10am-12:15pm

Lunch 12:15-1pm (included with in-person registration)

Session 2 (in person & online) 1-4pm

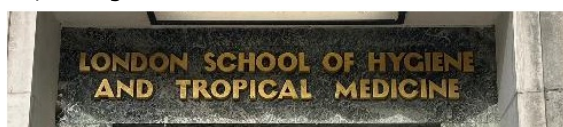
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## Rishika Reddy, 2023-24 Global Grant Scholar

By Rick Molland

This is the fifth and final spotlight in the series featuring the 2023-24 Global Grant Scholars.

Rishika Reddy is one of the five Global Grant Scholars being sponsored by District 7670 this year. She was awarded a Global Grant Scholarship to round-out her training to become a medical doctor, by completing Master of Science research in Sexual & Reproductive Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, in England.





After high school in Cary, Rishika earned Bachelor of Science degrees in both Neuroscience and Psychology, on a Morehead-Cain scholarship, from UNC at Chapel Hill in 2020. She is currently enrolled at the UNC School of Medicine and will graduate in 2024. She spent part of the 2022-23 academic year on her practicum at Mission Hospital in Asheville. Certified as a doula by the UNC School of Nursing, Rishika has been a volunteer doula since 2018. With internships and projects with the UNC Comprehensive Cancer Center, the World Health Organization, the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children, and the UNC Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, her passion for her chosen career is clearly evident.

Rishika summarized her reason for applying for the global grant scholarship, “I plan to focus on sexual and reproductive health policies and research to further my understanding of the barriers to high-quality care faced by mothers and women of reproductive age. I believe that the international and interdisciplinary insight into population health services and management offered by the institutions to which I am applying would allow me to better advocate for the development, research, and implementation of community-based interventions focused on improving maternal care in minority populations.”

After the scholarship period ends, Rishika plans to return to UNC Chapel Hill in early fall 2024 to complete additional coursework in OB-GYN and graduate with her MD. She will also work towards completing residency applications and interviews for four-year residency programs, where research could play a role in her career and where there is more opportunity for involvement with community outreach initiatives to increase access to perinatal and maternal health.

David Mans, President Nominee of the Rotary Club of Asheville, is Rishika’s International sponsor liaison; District 1130’s Rotary Club of Canary Wharf, in London’s historic Docklands, is her Host sponsor Club.

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# RYLA is Coming (YOU CAN HELP)

By Michael Stevenson

RYLA is Coming (AND YOU CAN HELP)

RYLA begins a week from today, on Thursday, April 11. Students are given a day and a half of excused absence by their school administration to attend this three-day residential leadership development program held at YMCA's Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain. Our District has been giving selected young people this opportunity for over 45 years.

Here is how this year's RYLA is shaping up:

- 27 clubs plus Youth Exchange sponsored students to RYLA this year.
- 105 students are registered
- Student demographics are
  - 73 girls and 32 boys
  - 10 freshmen
  - 26 sophomores
  - 50 juniors
  - 17 seniors
- 42 of those students are in Interact.

## VOLUNTEERS

In addition to the 11 Rotary coaches who have graciously volunteered to spend the whole weekend with the students, we will have other volunteer needs as well.

**Thursday afternoon** – Need 4 to 6 to put together student sports packs

**Thursday afternoon** – Need 2 to 3 to man registration tables

**Thursday afternoon** – Need 3 to 4 to greet students, confirm pick up, and help with luggage

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday night** – Need 1 chaperone for night watch. Blue Ridge Assembly has an all night security person who roams the campus and is available very quickly, but we would like to have a person stationed in the lobby of the dormitory.

**Sunday noon** – Need 2 to help with check out and key return.

Please email me with your availability - [stevenson.mike210@gmail.com](mailto:stevenson.mike210@gmail.com)

If you are interested in seeing how the weekend unfolds for attendees, this link will take you to the agenda.





## Book Signing



Book Signing at Panera Bread on 1843 Hendersonville Road, Asheville April 15@ 10am to 1pm: **Theme Leadership**

It is so exciting to announce that our very own Past District Governor Isaac Owolabi has published a new book that is sure to be of great value for those seeking leadership roles among nonprofit organizations. Proceeds from this book will go towards scholarships and eradication of polio.

The signing of books will also feature an author, Dr. Virgil Smith, Speaker at Asheville Biltmore Rotary Club April 15, a former Asheville Citizen times Publisher and the Board Chair of the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation. He was also previously the Publisher of Asheville Citizen-Times and spoke at commencement for UNC-Asheville where he was given an honorary doctorate.

Visit [isaacrotarystory.com](http://isaacrotarystory.com)

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## Saluting PDG Richard Howe

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of:

**PDG Richard Howe, who died March 27, 2024. Rotary Club of Boone (NC), District 7670. Served District 7670 in 1990-91 and 1996-97.**

Richard Howe, age 84, of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, passed away on March 27, 2024, following illness from cancer. He was predeceased by his father Kenneth Elisha Howe and mother Eva Theatrice Davis Howe, siblings Mary Kathryn Howe-Hawk, Theatrice Jeanne Febus, Dora Louise Howe Culp, George Franklin Howe, Keith Howard Howe, Kenneth Eugene Howe, Karen Lynette Howe and stepbrother James Roscoe Proctor. He left behind one stepsister, Maxine Howe Dorsey and her family, his wife, Betty Carol Barker Howe, who lives in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and his daughter, Caroline Elizabeth Howe, who lives in Boston, Massachusetts with her husband, Benjamin Clapp, and their daughters Grace, Elizabeth, and Lillian.

He was born on May 6, 1939 in Latham, Illinois. He received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Appalachian State University (ASU) in Boone, North Carolina and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). At ASU, he won an athletic scholarship to play basketball during his undergrad years and was later inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame for basketball. He was also awarded ASU's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Richard spent most of his professional career working for his beloved alma mater, ASU, and dedicated 43 years of service to the school. During his time at ASU, he was the assistant to the chancellor, the University's Compliance Officer, and a professor in the Reich College of Education. In the College of Education, he taught graduate courses in history, law, and higher education.

In 1978 he married his perfect match, Betty Carol Barker. They made their home in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and were married for 46 years. They raised their daughter, Caroline Elizabeth Howe, there and were surrounded by a kind and supportive neighborhood community. Richard was a consummate cheerleader for his ladies in everything they pursued and never missed a game or match in which his daughter played. During his last years of life when he struggled with the residual effects of radiation treatment from cancer, Betty devotedly cared for him.

Richard was an incredible athlete and sports fanatic and enjoyed playing doubles and singles tennis at Deer Valley Racquet Club with his crew of guy friends. Ever the fierce competitor, his long baseline shots and lefty serves were hard to defend, showing no mercy on the court for anyone, friend or not. He adored his group of guy friends who he called, "the boys," and when he retired, he enjoyed meeting them for lunch and fellowship twice a week.

He loved reading and writing poetry and found great comfort in British poetry, especially. He quoted his favorite lines of poetry to his family daily and during car rides to school. His daughter was able to return the favor by reciting his favorite poems back to him, out loud, during his last days.

A dedicated member of the service organization, Rotary International, he served six terms as club president of the Rotary Club of Boone and two terms as district governor of District 7670. He also raised over \$10 million for The Rotary Foundation.

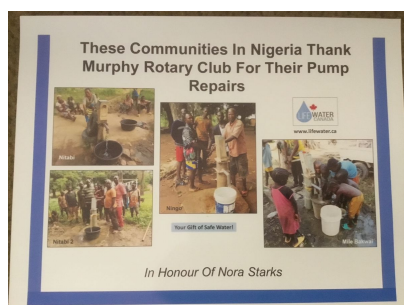
His family will remember and cherish his enthusiastic, never-back-down spirit, and his unwavering dedication to the people and institutions he loved.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church in Blowing Rock, North Carolina at 140 Chestnut Drive Post Office Box 14, Blowing Rock, NC 28605-0014 or the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.hamptonfuneralinc.com](http://www.hamptonfuneralinc.com)

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## Wells for Nora Project



The Rotary Club of Murphy has consistently supported the Wells for Nora project and is excited to share this with others. LifeWaterCanada is the organization the club partnered with to get clean water to those in need in other countries. [The World Health Organization](#) says about 1.7 billion people are forced to use disease-filled water for drinking and cooking. About 505,000 die every year from preventable, water-related diseases. Sadly, children are the most vulnerable, making up more than half of those deaths. In response to this need, the mission of LifeWaterCanada is to provide safe drinking water and improve hygiene in Africa and Haiti. The focus of their work there is because these countries have less access to safe water than most countries, because their governments have limited capacity to respond to this need, and because there is a general lack of required equipment and trained workers. In addition, groundwater is readily accessible at low cost, resulting in high project success rates and maximum impact for every dollar invested.

To date, the Rotary Club of Murphy has repaired nearly 100 water pumps and drilled one new well. Each well and repair provides water to approximately 500 individuals, so the club has helped to provide water to over 40,000 people through this project. The Rotary Club of Murphy partnered with Life Water Canada because they not only provide clean water, but they also teach proper sanitation practices to the community. Ninety-four cents of every dollar goes toward providing clean water. When repairs are needed, Life Water Canada requires the villagers to actually participate in the repair process, and they have several distribution locations in the country, which allow parts to be provided. Other items constructed when needed include water retention systems and community toilets. Life Water Canada is ranked within the top 10 charities in Canada. The picture attached is a "thank you" to the Rotary Club of Murphy from the villagers in several different villages.

Thank you Rotary Club of Murphy for all you do, near and far.

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# Now Taking 2024 Tennent Scholarship Applications!

By Carol L Birkner on Tuesday, February 13, 2024



## BUZZ TENNENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Rotary Club of Asheville decided in 1998 that there was a need for a scholarship program that was based upon academic merit as well as financial need. The funds for these scholarships are derived from fundraising and donations. The amount available varies from year to year as does the number of qualified students.

Applications Due April 14, 2024

### CRITERIA

- Be a high school senior
- Have un-weighted GPA of 2.0 if planning to attend 2 year program at technical school, community college or junior college and 3.0 if planning for 4 year college.
- Be enrolled in a college, university, community college or technical school
- Have three letters of reference
- Be a Buncombe County resident

QUESTIONS? CONTACT  
SKLEDDUC@PRODIGY.NET  
CALLIEDAVIS263@GMAIL.COM  
TINYURL.COM/TENNENTSCHOLARSHIP

Apply Here



Rotary Club of Asheville has a commitment to helping our community and one of the ways we do this is through our annual needs-based Tennent Scholarship.

The Buzz Tennent Scholarship was established by the Rotary Club of Asheville to support post high school students to achieve knowledge and skills essential for life and careers. Buzz Tennent was a Past President of the Rotary Club of Asheville (1939-1940) who went on to serve as District Governor in 1943-1944 and President of Rotary International in 1957-1958. The funds for the scholarship are donated by club members or raised through various fundraisers held throughout the year.

Those graduating from high school in 2024 are eligible to apply. Application deadline is April 14, 2024.

Additional requirements and guidelines are:

They must be a Buncombe County student (city, county, or private school)

- They must provide a transcript of their grades
- They must have successful out of school activities, e.g. work, volunteer, study, intern.
- They must attach 3 letters of recommendation: at least 1 from teacher, other 2 from non-family sources
- They must provide Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) documentation
- They must answer each question and provide all requested information on the application
- They must provide a photo

For questions or help with the application, email [rotarytennent@gmail.com](mailto:rotarytennent@gmail.com).

APPLICATION



## Four Way Test

By Julie P. West on Saturday, July 1, 2023

# The Four Way Test Rotary



1. Is it the **TRUTH**?

2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and  
**BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all  
concerned?

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### Events

March 16th, 8:45 <b>RLI - District 7600- Parts I and III - Virginia Beach, VA</b>	April 6th, 8:30-3:45 PM <b>RLI-District 7690- Parts I, II, III - Pittsboro NC</b>	April 9th, 2:30-3:30 PM <b>DACdb U-No DACdb U - Grant Application and Final Report</b>	April 11th, 12:30 <b>2024 District Leadership Team Seminar - Zone 33</b>
April 11th, 5:30-6:30 PM <b>CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting</b>	April 15th, 5:00-6:00 PM <b>Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call</b>	April 15th, 5:45-6:45 PM <b>Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar &gt;&gt;&gt;JOIN NOW</b>	April 17th, 12:00-1:00 PM <b>Lunch A La CART with Dr. Marius Wernig</b>
April 18th, 6:00-9:00 PM <b>District 7670 Leadership Appreciation Dinner</b>	April 19th, 8:15-12:00 PM <b>24-25 District Leadership Team Meeting</b>	April 19th, 9:15-4:15 PM <b>RLI-District 7620- Parts I, II and III- Cambridge, MD</b>	April 19th, 5:00-10:30 PM <b>Y'all Ready For This? District 7670 Pep Rally</b>
April 19th, 5:30 <b>DISTRICT 7670 CONFERENCE April 19-20, 2024</b>	April 20th, 10:00-11:00 AM <b>DACdb U-No DACdb U - Grant Application and Final Report</b>	April 20th, 6:00-9:30 PM <b>District 7670 Awards Celebration</b>	April 23rd, 6:00-7:00 PM <b>Public Image Boot Camp</b>
April 27th, 8:15-3:15 PM <b>RLI-District 7545 Parts I, II, III, Faculty-Fairmont, WV</b>	April 27th, 8:15-3:45 PM <b>RLI-District 7720-Part I-Kill Devil Hills, NC</b>	April 29th, 5:30-8:30 PM <b>District 7770 - Part I - Virtual - Apr 29 and Apr 30, 2024</b>	May 4th, 8:15-3:45 PM <b>RLI-District 7720- Parts I, II and III- Winterville, NC</b>
May 4th, 9:00-11:15 AM <b>District Training Assembly</b>			

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## Club Anniversaries

[Asheville](#)

April 1st

[Highlands-Mountaintop](#)

April 9th

[Hendersonville-Four Seasons](#)

April 23rd

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[Lenoir](#)

April 5th

[Boone Sunrise](#)

April 11th

## Account Leaders



[Sean Gibson](#)

District Governor



[Connie M. Molland](#)

DG-Elect



[Alex R. Portelli](#)

DG-Nominee



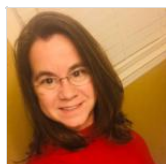
[Patrick Anthony Longano](#)

District Membership Chair



[Gary D. Dills](#)

District Rotary Foundation  
Chair



[Julie P. West](#)

District Public Image/PR  
Chair



[George Michael Vavrek](#)

Strategic Planning Chair



[Michael Lanzilotta](#)

Club Diversity Equity and  
Inclusion Chair



[Paige Carroll Scott](#)

District Governor - Nom.  
Desig.



[Tiffany Ervin](#)

District Conference Chair



[Paul Garner](#)

District Secretary



[James A. Cruickshank](#)

District Finance Chair



[Michael Stevenson](#)

Youth Services Chair

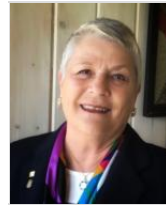


[James O. Perry](#)

District Treasurer



John F. Baumrucker  
International Services Chair



Billi J. Black  
DCO-District Comm. Officer