

E-Club of Rotary Raleigh International



Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Club Meeting

Raleigh International (E-Club)
Meets at Zoom
[https://zoom.us/j/99333184139?](https://zoom.us/j/99333184139?pwd=PefaaB5JVxH9rAmOz1WCa60WQOuSZJ.1)
[pwd=PefaaB5JVxH9rAmOz1WCa60WQOuSZJ.1](https://zoom.us/j/99333184139?pwd=PefaaB5JVxH9rAmOz1WCa60WQOuSZJ.1)
Meeting ID: 993 3318 4139 Passcode:
Rotary@24

Raleigh, NC
Time: Saturday at 09:00 AM

Speakers

May 03, 2025

PDG Donna Peffley, District Rotary
Foundation Chair

How we make a difference through The
Rotary Foundation

May 10, 2025

Howard Jackson

The Challenge of AI; Balancing its Perils &
Threats

May 17, 2025

Various

This will be a group discussion of a topic of
interest.

May 24, 2025

No program today

No meeting today in celebration of the
Memorial Day Holiday in the US.

Birthdays

Melissa Miorin Sutton

May 14th

Joan Howard

May 25th

Arnold Busgith

May 27th

Club Leaders



Marie Shoemaker Howard
President-Elect
Club Learning Facilitator
Rotary Foundation Chair
President



Help Us Increase our Impact & Have Fun!

By Marie Shoemaker Howard on Monday, April 28, 2025



The Rotary E-Club of Raleigh International is embarking on a Strategic Planning process this spring. To help guide the club please complete the [linked survey](#) by May 10, 2025, and return it to 2019dg@Rotary7710.org.

Strategic planning will help our club by establishing a clear direction and framework for decision-making for the next three to five years. Key benefits of strategic planning include:

- **Creates Clarity and Direction** Strategic planning will help us define where we want to go and how we will get there for the next 3-5 years. This shared vision aligns members toward common goals, reducing confusion, and wasted effort.
- **Improves Resource Allocation** By identifying priorities and goals, strategic planning will help us allocate limited resources more effectively toward activities with the highest impact.
- **Enhances Decision-Making** Our strategic plan will provide a framework for evaluating opportunities and challenges, making it easier to determine which actions support long-term objectives.
- **Increases Adaptability** Our plan will include mechanisms to monitor our progress and adjust course when necessary.

Our club strategic plan will be consistent with Rotary's strategic plan called **The Rotary Action Plan**.

The ROTARY ACTION PLAN

INCREASE OUR IMPACT

- Define, measure, & analyze projects
- Use resources effectively
- Meaningful, positive, lasting change

EXPAND OUR REACH

- Connect with new audiences who share our passion for service
- Create innovative Rotary experiences

ENHANCE PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

- Provide opportunities to:
- Make connections
 - Build skills &
 - Serve communities

INCREASE OUR ABILITY TO ADAPT

- Embrace innovation & new perspectives
- Address evolving needs of members & communities

Please contribute your perspective to our strategic planning process to help us become an even more vibrant Rotary club!

The Sweet Origins of Candy Land: Born from Adversity

Monday, April 28, 2025

Imagine lying in a hospital ward, surrounded by children suffering from a devastating disease, their small bodies fighting a battle against polio. This was Eleanor Abbott's reality in 1948—a retired schoolteacher confined to a San Diego hospital, her own body weakened by the very illness that isolated countless children from their families.



But Abbott refused to let darkness prevail.

From her hospital bed, she created magic—a vibrant world of peppermint forests, gumdrop mountains, and chocolate swamps that would become **Candy Land**. This wasn't just a game; it was medicine for the spirit, designed specifically to bring joy to children enduring long, lonely periods of convalescence in polio wards across America.



1949 edition (Wikipedia)

Perhaps most remarkably, Abbott designed Candy Land to be playable by even the youngest children without adult assistance—a thoughtful gift to exhausted parents and caregivers that continues to provide precious moments of respite nearly eight decades later.

A simple board game born from suffering became an enduring symbol of how creativity and kindness can transform the bleakest circumstances into something wonderfully sweet.

Rotary continues to fight this devastating disease through the Polio Plus program. Our donations are matched 2:1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, expanding our impact. Learn more about Rotary's fight against polio:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/plus-polioplus>

Donate, today! <https://my.rotary.org/en/polioplus-fund>

Members who pledge to donate \$100 per year to Polio Plus may become members of the Polio Plus Society. Contact Marie for additional information 2019dg@Rotary7710.org.



Hands That Speak, Hearts That Lead: Rotary and Deaf Youth in Action



Together, we are building a future where every voice — spoken, signed, or silent — is heard.

At Rotary, we believe that the most powerful voices aren't always the loudest — sometimes, they are spoken through hands, through smiles, through actions that change lives.

This year, our Rotary Club proudly deepened its partnership with the Lister Mair/Gilby School for the Deaf in Kingston, Jamaica, strengthening our shared mission to support education, empowerment, and opportunity for every student.

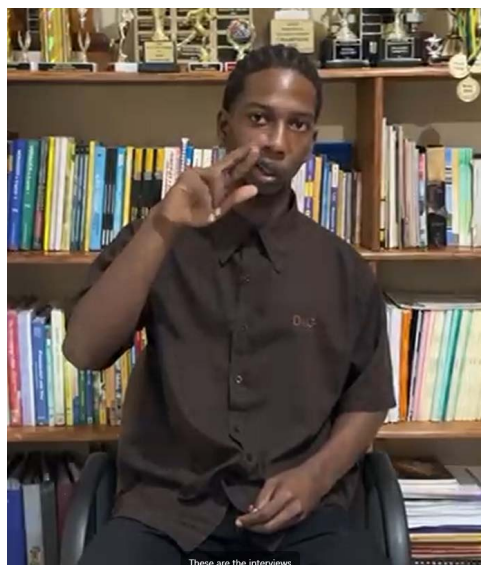
Through grants, volunteerism, and advocacy, our club has been helping the students in many tangible and intangible ways (See April's newsletter).

During our recent visit, RECRI members spent the day learning basic Jamaican Sign Language phrases, sharing in creative workshops, and witnessing the brilliance of students eager to show their talents. Even without speaking, we understood each other perfectly: a laugh, a handshake, — these were the true conversations that filled the day.

Our efforts have been successful to the extent that we get to hear back from the students there. **As part of our efforts to highlight May as Rotary Youth Service Month, we present two LMG graduates, Jamarie Thomas and Aidan McLeod and their stories of dreams and triumph.** "Now I want to be a videographer or graphic designer. I want to make a mark in the world," Jamarie signs with a wide smile. While Aidan states that he wants to create an app that can translate Jamaican sign language to written and spoken language. Their dreams are now backed by the RECRI community who believe in their ability to lead and inspire. *[The full videos of Jamarie and Aidan will be posted on the RECRI Facebook page.]*

This partnership reminds us that communication isn't limited by sound — it is built through connection, understanding, and compassion.

As Rotarians, we are honored to help amplify the silent voices that have so much to say. And this is just the beginning. We look forward to continuing to walk hand-in-hand with LMG listening with our hearts and acting with purpose.



Photos: In the first photo Aidan speaks at an LMG 2025 Career Day. In the 2nd photo above, Jamarie shares about his career as a videographer.

Celebrating Youth Service Month – May 2025

May is Youth Service Month, a time when Rotary International emphasizes the importance of empowering young people through service, leadership development, and cultural exchange.

Rotary Youth Exchange: Building Global Citizens



Rotary's commitment to youth is evident through its Rotary Youth Exchange program, which has been quietly shaping future leaders for decades. Each year, students from around the world embark on life-changing journeys, living and learning in new countries through Rotary's vast global network.

This exchange is not simply about travel — it's about fostering understanding, breaking down cultural barriers, and inspiring young people to see the world through a wider lens. Rotary volunteers, many of them longtime members, make these opportunities possible, mentoring and supporting students every step of the way.

Rotary Youth Exchange reminds us that investing in youth is investing in peace, leadership, and a more connected world.

Rotary clubs worldwide engage youth in programs like Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and Youth Exchange, fostering the next generation of leaders. These initiatives provide young individuals with opportunities to develop skills, connect with communities, and promote international understanding. As we celebrate Youth Service Month, let's recognize and support the vital contributions of young people in building a better future.

Image Source: [Rotary Club of Maryborough](#)



Best Practices, Better Results: The Follow-Up

In case you missed it....RECRI President Marie facilitated the Best Practices Forum Meeting at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 26. Here are some of the highlights:
(Courtesy of Barbara Day - District 7710)

Club Meeting Team

1. Programs
 - a. Have a shared system to book speakers and send requests in batches, 3-4 months in advance
 - b. Vary program types—look to other organizations, meet-up groups, schools and universities for speakers
 - c. Be creative
 - d. Fill in cancellations with social events, 'I am' or 'classification' presentations, something fun!
2. Sgt. at Arms—keeping it fun!
 - a. Have short quizzes that generate donations to CART or happy dollars
 - b. Build member connections thru these light hearted activities
3. Membership
 - a. Invite potential members to special meetings, socials, & service events
 - b. Have fun, play games
 - i. BINGO for CART
 - ii. Candy land for PolioPlus [Did you know Candy Land was invented for polio wards?] *[See Marie's Candyland story above in the May newsletter].*
4. Five C's of an effective meeting
 - a. **Culture**—create a culture of expectations—i.e. inviting potential members to meetings.

- b. **Consistency**—have pattern to your meetings
- c. **Connections**—have time to get to know each other
- d. **Community**—reach out and make connections with community partners
- e. **CELEBRATION!**—celebrate your club's progress towards goals. Have FUN!

DACdb—New Ignite App to Come!

1. Will be launched by July 1 for the entire District
2. Log-in with DACdb password. (Secretary can help you find password)
3. Can message any Rotarian in District
4. Can get a new member application directly from the app
5. Can pay invoice, make donations, and changes to personal profile directly from app
6. Service selfies taken from app are sent to PI chair for club promotion
7. Club demos are available & video in the DACdb Support and Knowledge Base

Trivia Question of the Month

What is the principal motto of Rotary International?

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Raleigh International (E-Club)

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