



District Governor's Bulletin

April 2019

UPCOMING CLUB & DISTRICT EVENTS

Rotary Club of Bridgeport's 100th Anniversary Celebration

April 6, 2019
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
The Holiday Inn
1070 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Join Bridgeport Rotarians, friends and family for a fun evening celebration of "Bridgeport Rotary; 100 Years of Service to Bridgeport and the World!"

District 7980 Marketing & Communications Tour for Areas 3 & 4

April 8, 2019
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Booth Library
25 Main Street
Newtown, Connecticut

Session #5 of this All-District marketing and communication campaign to unify our Clubs to align around marketing and communication best practices and remove the Rotary "best kept secret" stigma. Register online at <http://www.rotary7980.org/>

A Message from District Governor Larry Gardner



Happy Spring to all Rotarians across our great District. Welcome to April...

With the Rotary year moving into its last several months, we all have much to be proud of in our District. Recently two major international Global Grants were initiated in Uganda and Kenya. The Uganda Global Grant is led by the Guilford Rotary Club and will dig upwards of ten fresh water wells throughout the Bushenyi District in Western Uganda, while the Kenya Global Grant is being led by the North Branford Rotary Club to serve women and children of Kenya.

In addition to these newly launched Global Grants, the District managed Grant program is in full swing with only about \$14,000 in funds remaining. So, do not wait. If you have a project that you wish to execute, get those applications in so we can support your efforts.

April is Maternal & Child Health Month. How appropriate that the six Rotary Clubs of Area 8 (Branford, Clinton, East Haven, Guilford, Madison and North Branford) just completed packing 46,000 meals for the children and families of Dayere, Haiti. The program was extremely successful and received




Annual Niantic Rotary Gala

April 13, 2019
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Water's Edge Resort & Spa
Westbrook, CT

Annual Niantic Rotary Fundraiser honoring community volunteers.

Stratford Rotary Shredding Event

April 20, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
The Baldwin Center (Back Parking Lot)
1000 West Broad Street
Stratford, CT

A great opportunity to safely and securely shred confidential documents  perfect for personal use, small companies and offices. Bring your old computers, TVs, printers, etc., to be recycled. Funds raised will help provide Stratford students with Dictionaries for all 3rd graders and Thesauruses for all 5th graders. Paper Shredding Small Containers: \$5 Medium Containers: \$10

District 7980 Four Way Speech Contest (Semi-Finals)

April 27, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rotary Areas 1-9 will be held at the Main Trumbull Library in Trumbull, CT

Rotary Areas 10-12 will be held at Slater Hall at the Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, CT

District 7980 is pleased to announce the 2018-2019 Four-Way Test Speech

statewide visibility on Fox61 and WTNH8. Over 170 volunteers showed up to pack 46,000 meals in just under 2 hours. An amazing accomplishment. This is a great example of multiple clubs coming together in a District Managed Grant program. I encourage all Clubs around the District to join together and make a difference in support of mothers and children across our District and around the world.

Also, do not forget that the District Conference and Assembly is coming up May 17th through May 19th. I strongly urge everyone to attend. It's local and it will provide a tremendous opportunity to bring our District together to celebrate a fantastic year. Registration information follows.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a wonderful month as we launch into warmer weather and continue our active work to support those in need in our communities and around the world. Thank you for all you do in Rotary.

Annual District Conference and Assembly



Register Today for the District Celebration Event of the Year! Two Events in One...The District Conference & The District Assembly!!!

Make plans now to come to the combined District Conference & Assembly May 17 to 19. A short drive away in Southbury, CT, this year's event combines the two most significant District-wide events into one exciting weekend.

Why should you attend the 2019 District Conference/Assembly?

- **Be inspired** and entertained with engaging speakers
- **Celebrate** your club's accomplishments during the past year
- **Learn** about Rotary's widespread accomplishments
- **Make new friends** with members from other clubs
- **Help** with a hands-on service project
- **Prepare** for the upcoming Rotary year with fresh vision
- **Laugh and have fun**

This year's annual conference will empower you with tools and strategies to foster your personal ability to serve others.

Reserve your spot today! Registrations can be made online via the District website by clicking the [District Conference Event Calendar](#)

Contest has officially started. Every Rotary Club in District 7980 is encouraged to engage with its local high school and sponsor a local competition and send the winning student to their specific Area Semi-Final contest on April 27th 2019.

Glass Source Fundraiser for Ansonia Rotary

April 28, 2019
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Glass Source Studios
8 Bank Street
Seymour, CT

Create your own one of a kind fused glass plate. Visit the Disitrect website for more details.

District 7980 Marketing & Communications Tour for Areas 1 & 2

April 29, 2019
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Location TBA

Session #6 of this All-District marketing and communication campiagn to unify our Clubs to align around marketing and communication best practices and remove the Rotary "best kept secret" stigma. Register online at <http://www.rotary7980.org/?p=districtevents>.

[Link](#). Please make all Rotarians aware of this important annual event.

Visit to Rockport, TX



DG Larry, while visiting family in Texas recently, paid a visit to the Rockport, TX Rotary Club. Many will remember that Hurricane Harvey slammed directly into Rockport in 2017 and almost wiped out the town. Our District was instrumental in supporting the recovery. Collectively, our District donated over \$20,000 to the Rockport club, about 10% of all of the money collected by the club. Some of the things that this club was able to do included:

- New playground equipment for the elementary school, especially handicapped equipment
- Supporting the Odyssey After School Enrichment Program
- Making a travel trailer available for the Fire Chief whose home was completely destroyed.
- Financial support to local businesses to help rebuild and keep employees until they could re-open. Some took as much as a year to reopen.
- Providing around thirty \$500 gift cards for those people that applied due to hardships.
- Providing furniture for new homes that Samaritan's Purse built for free for those in need.

While there is still much evidence of the devastation in Rockport, it was amazing to see how much progress has been made in just 18 months in rebuilding the town. Please know that the Rockport Rotary Club members are so appreciative of our support.

New Clubs Formed



We are excited to announce that three (3) new clubs have been formed within our District. Sponsored jointly by the Devon, Milford, and Stratford Rotary clubs is the **Connecticut Shoreline Rotaract Club**. As a community based Rotaract club, it's potential to attract young adults from throughout the area will be much broader than a college campus based club.

Sponsored by the Ledyard Rotary Club is the new **Ledyard Interact Club**. I'm sure that Ledyard Rotary President Jay Hartling's role as the Superintendent of Schools in Ledyard was instrumental in making this happen.

And, sponsored by the Cheshire Rotary Club is the **Cheshire Interact Club**.

Congratulations to all for helping to broaden the reach of Rotary!

District Marketing & Communications Tour



The Tour is Underway!

Register on the District Website to Reserve your Spot Today

The District Communications Team has embarked on a **Marketing & Communications Tour** traveling to all twelve Areas and meeting with all 59 Clubs. Our mission? To educate, align and place into action a unified marketing and communications strategy that will expand and target our Rotary messaging deep inside our communities and increase our Rotary Brand on a district-wide basis.

Rotary is a "Best Kept Secret"

This is a perception that many of our clubs express every time this conversation is played. We believe that by unifying our Rotary Storytelling and taking advantage of the many communication strategies

at our disposal that we will make a profound impact on the future success of our District. Not only will we reach deeper into the relationships we hold in our communities, but we will engage new members and increase funding to Rotary.

This effort is about aligning around a series of "best practices" that, when adopted and connected from club-to-club, will increase our visibility, our story and our core value of giving back to the community and the world. [Read More](#)

District Picnic



You are invited to a Rotary Day picnic for District 7980!

On May 4th from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Upper Duck Pond on North St in Milford, CT a local group is holding a half day festival. The event centers around a local group's fundraising efforts for the local Milford Education Foundation. The event organizer, a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Devon, has invited us to share the space and invite Rotarians from around the District to join us in fellowship and a friendly game of tug of war! That's right, tug of war! They will be stretching a rope across the river that runs through the center of town and local groups are invited to participate.

We thought to hold a tug of war match, pitting Rotarians and clubs east of Milford vs Rotarians and clubs west of Milford. It will be a lot of fun. There's no cost to participate, and we encourage you to bring a picnic lunch and share fellowship with other Rotarians from around the area.



DACdb Supports District Marketing & Communications Tour with Website Discounts!

During the period ending April 30, 2019, DACdb is offering each Club in District 7980 the opportunity to set up a Club Website or convert existing Website to the "Easy and Beautiful" format. During this promotion, the One-Time Setup charge of \$197 will be waived and the Annual Fee of \$259 will be reduced to \$129.50 for the first year.

To learn more about the choices available:

- Login to "DACDB.com"
- Click on "District Website"
- Review the 5 options presented on the page
- View the "Video" presented on the left hand side of the page

Note that you can do a 30-Day free trial before making the commitment to go with the website for your Club.

If you have questions, please contact District Webmaster, Ron Webb.

Cheshire Club President in Spain...



Lex Sorrell, President of the Rotary Club of Cheshire, visited and presented at the Rotary Club of Palma De Mallorca, Spain during December. This particular Club is the oldest of 13 Clubs on the Island (plus one Rotaract Club).

The Club meets at the Malia Hotel on the Mediterranean waterfront overlooking the fabulous skyline of yachts, boats and the cathedral that dates back centuries to being a Mosque on the same location in the times of the Moors. The island's history is rich in terms of civic involvement and work with the community for any need that might come up.

The Club came into being in 1923 but during the Franco era and Spanish Civil War of the 30's it was illegal to have a Rotary Club presence in Spain. After the change in government in the 70's the Club came back to life and joins 12 others in service.

A recent highlight was the Clubs work done in conjunction with local tennis world champion Rafael Nadal and his family and foundation to help in the deadly floods on the island.

(Also, Note: This is the birth island of Tari Marshall-Day, AG and Lex's Mom).

District Managed Grant Funds Still Available...



As of this Bulletin, there is still about \$14,000 available to initiate a District Managed Grant for clubs this Rotary year.

Please take advantage of these available funds before these dollars of support are gone.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

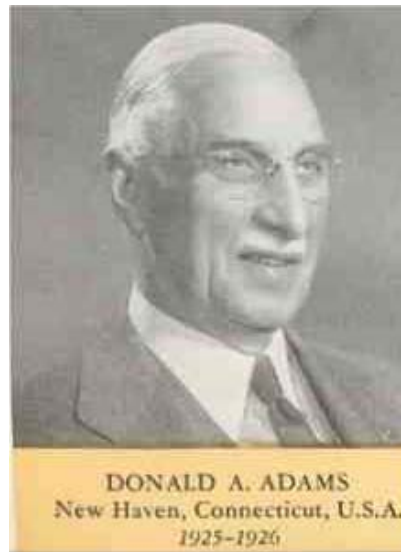
RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

The next RYLA event takes place May 10 - 12 at Camp Hazen in Chester. There are still scholarships available, at \$125 each. Clubs are eligible for a maximum of two (2) per year. So, please pass this along to your Youth Chair and Interact Club Coordinator, and do not let these opportunities go to waste. RYLA is one of the most extraordinary programs for youth in Rotary. Give the gift of leadership to the young adults in your community.

For more information, please contact Jack Solomon at jacksolomon1@gmail.com.

Donald A. Adams Outstanding Rotarian Award



Do you have a member of your club who is a truly outstanding Rotarian? Wouldn't it be nice to recognize and thank them in a very special way?

You can, by nominating them for the **Donald A. Adams Outstanding Rotarian Award**. Applications and additional information is available on the District website. Applications are due by April 7.

Donald A. Adams was a past District Governor (1922-23) from the New Haven Rotary Club. He became the 15th President of Rotary

International in 1925-26. The District created this award in his honor in 1975 to recognize one outstanding Rotarian from a club in our District, who is not a Past District Governor, who best represents all-around contributions to the Five Avenues of Rotary Service. Consideration is given to the candidate's exceptional service to both his or her club and the District. Each club in the District may nominate a candidate from their club by submitting this form to the selection committee no later than April 7, 2019. This most outstanding Rotarian for the year is selected by a committee consisting of the five most recent recipients able to serve. The most senior recipient acts as Chair of the selection committee. The award will be presented at the District Conference.

