



District Governor's Bulletin

February 2019

UPCOMING CLUB & DISTRICT EVENTS

District 7980 Marketing & Communications Tour for Areas 7 & 9

February 11, 2019
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
The HUBCAP Wallingford
128 Center Street
Wallingford, Connecticut

Session #2 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/?p=districtevents>

Monday \$6.00 Steak Out for Charity

February 18, 2019
10:30 am - 11:30 pm
The Sedona Taphouse
515 West Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut

The Sedona Taphouse at 515 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT will be donating \$1.00 for every steak purchased on a Monday during the month of February to the Norwalk Rotary Club. Valentine's Day is February

A Message from the District Governor Larry Gardner



Happy Valentines Day to all Rotarians across our great District.

If there is one thing I know about our Rotarians is that we have lots of heart, and it shows. Not only does the work we do support those in need, Rotarians across southern Connecticut are beginning to reach deep into their pockets to support the Rotary Foundation and the District as we head towards the ever-important spring Rotary Foundation campaign. We are in an amazing Rotary community because we benefit from your heartfelt contributions every year. I am often reminded of the power of Rotary, as each year we receive from the Rotary Foundation 50% of the contributions we made three years prior. These are the funds that allow us to support and invest in Global Grants, District Managed Grants, Vocational Training Teams, Ambassadorial Scholars, and more. I am so impressed by every Club, our leadership, our hard working Rotarians. Together we are making a profound difference in Connecticut and around the world. And, for that, I am extremely grateful.

February is also Peace and Conflict Resolution Month. Conflict and violence displaces millions of people each year. Half of those killed in conflict are children, and 90 percent are civilians. As Rotarians, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary supports and promotes projects that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve

14th! Take your significant other to a wonderful dinner on Monday, February 11th. The Norwalk Rotary Club donates dictionaries to every 3rd grader in Norwalk Public Schools.

District-Wide Rotary Builds Business

Supercharged Indoor Karting and Trampoline Park
1 Sachatello Industrial Drive
Montville, CT 06370

This is a District event for any and **all Rotarians** and **1 GUEST (Hopefully a potential Rotary member)** who want to discuss Rotary, their business, share and mingle with other Rotarians and have some fun! Rotary Members should **wear their badges**, bring business cards and whatever give-aways or business promotions you want to distribute, there will be a table set up for handouts. Come and have some fun...Do some Kart driving and Trampoline Bouncing!

Monday \$6.00 Steak Out for Charity

February 25, 2019
10:30 am - 11:30 pm
The Sedona Taphouse
515 West Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut

The Sedona Taphouse at 515 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT will be donating \$1.00 for every steak purchased on a Monday during the month of February to the Norwalk Rotary Club. Valentine's Day is February 14th! Take your significant other to a wonderful dinner

conflicts.

Through our service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, we are taking action to address the underlying cause of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Has your club ever considered a project that fully focuses on Conflict Resolution? Maybe it's time. Connect to the District and other Rotary resources to engage in a local or global project. And, while you're at it, this is also the month to celebrate Diversity in Rotary. The power of both Conflict Resolution and Diversity fits with our Valentines Day celebration.

So, thank you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do, and most importantly, your abundant generosity.



Annual District Conference and Assembly



Mark Your Calendars for the District Celebration Event of the Year

Time to register and begin promoting the District 7980 Combined Annual District Conference and Assembly scheduled for May 17th through 19th. This event has been reformatted to bring together the Annual District Conference and the Annual District Assembly to increase attendance and engagement from Rotarians across the District. Plus, the combined

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Next Generations Conference for High School Students

March 2, 2019
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Notre Dame High School
West Haven, Connecticut

Each year, high school students from all across the district meet their peers, in order to have a dialogue about topics and issues that are important to them. The diverse backgrounds of students provide participants with a variety of perspectives on the topics. The workshops, open to all high school students, change annually based on student experiences and needs. By attending Next Generations, participants will not only connect with other students in the Rotary District, but will also gain effective communication skills and valuable understanding abilities that will better them as leaders in their clubs, schools, and communities. There will be a special session for Rotarians beginning at 4:20pm and Parents beginning at 4:45pm on the conference date. In this session, you will learn about what students participated in and the purpose of our conference.

PETS: PRESIDENT-ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR

March 7 - 9, 2019
Sheraton Framingham
1657 Worcester Road
Framingham, Massachusetts

event will be local so that the venue is easily accessible to all Rotarians. Day trips to the event will be promoted along with full weekend packages at The Heritage Hotel & Conference Center, an exclusive Connecticut Resort that will play host to a weekend of Rotary recognition, fellowship and celebration for a successful and impactful Rotary year.

Reserve your spot today! Registrations can be made online via the District website by clicking the [District Conference Event Calendar Link](#). Please make all Rotarians aware of this important annual event. We will keep you posted on specific activities for the event in the weeks to come.

Incoming Presidents Gear Up for PETS 2019



President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) March 7 - 9, 2019 Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

Our Promise to You!

We promise to inspire Presidents-Elect to lead their clubs and to empower them to achieve success! Thursday afternoon will kick off with dynamic sessions on developing an "elevator speech," tracking a "fun" meeting and a session on mastering taking a professional quality video with your cellphone. Thursday's program will provide the chance to form Rotary and professional partnerships with "classmates" and will offer valuable tools to utilize not only as a club leader but also in our professional lives.

Friday morning facilitated interactive sessions begin at 8 am and continue through Saturday noon. The focus will be on leadership strategies for successfully leading your club and inspiring volunteers; engaging members and investing in your community through service projects; making Rotary relevant to different groups and attracting young professionals to your club; creating a sense of enthusiasm and momentum in your club; sharing success stories where clubs collaborated with other clubs and with other community partners to leverage resources for bigger impact; and finally, how do Rotary's youth

Multi-District training for President Elects. A final training weekend bringing together Districts from across New England to share best practices in club management and leadership so they can make their clubs vibrant participants of Rotary

District 7980 Marketing & Communications Tour for Areas 5 & 6

March 18, 2019
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Oronoke Country Club
385 Oronoke Lane
Stratford, Connecticut

Session #3 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/?p=districtevents>

Trumbull Rotary Wine & Beer Tasting

March 21, 2019
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Vazzano's Four Season
337 Kenyon Street
Stratford, Connecticut

Wine & Beer Tasting to help celebrate those who give back in our community and to raise funds for Service Projects in the Greater Trumbull Community.

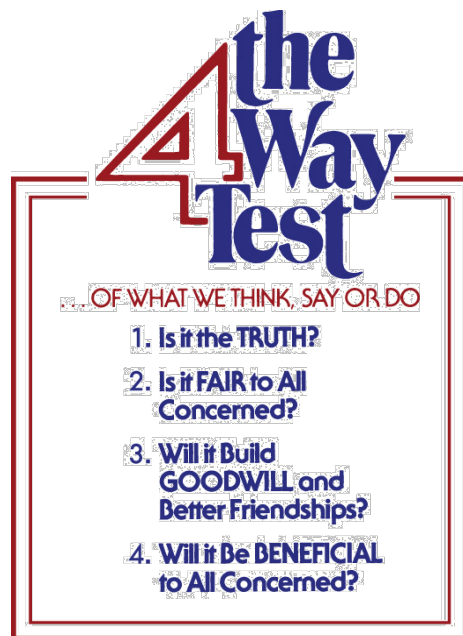
District 7980 Marketing & Communications Tour for Areas 11 & 12

March 25, 2019
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Groton Senior Center
102 Newtown Road

programs bring vibrancy and energy to your club.

This year's six keynote speakers will inform and reinforce our program and our conversations, inviting us all to consider concepts like "thinking out of the box;" becoming a change agent; leading your club to be more project oriented; collaboration and flexibility. You will leave this PETS program feeling "fired up" and eager to begin the amazing year ahead as your club's President!

It's Not Too Late to Kick-off Your Club's 4-Way Test Speech Contest



The 2019 4-Way Test Speech Contest is in action. Every Rotary Club in District 7980 should be engaged 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. The final competition will be held at the District Assembly on May 18th, and there is no fee for student participation. Final winning prizes for the May 2019 finals will be - 1st Place - \$500.00; 2nd Place - \$400.00; 3rd Place - \$300.00; and 4th Place - \$200.00.

The competition initiates with each Club, with the "Youth Services" Committee serving as the event coordinator. Initial contact should be made with the local High School to promote the event as early in January as possible. And, each club should set a budget to cover honorariums for all student winners and finalists. (*For example, the Wallingford Rotary Club budgets \$600.00 to manage the program, which includes prize winnings of \$150.00 for first place, \$75.00 for 2nd place, \$50.00 for 3rd place, and \$50 for 4th place, plus \$150.00 for the semifinal entrance fee*).

If you have't already, please discuss this at your February board meeting and get your program in gear. Every club promoting this program will reap the public benefits in their community and, more importantly, open the door for students to experience a unique opportunity to stand behind our 4-Way Test and tell us how they see this working in the world.

For assistance in initiating the program or with any questions, please contact Mark Davis, 4-Way Test Speech District 7980 Coordinator, at mark@pcservices-ct.com.

Session #4 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/?p=districtevents>

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 the 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](#)

DGE Jack Solomon Attends International Assembly in San Diego

Incoming District Governor for 2019-2020, Jack Solomon, recently attended the International Assembly for District Governors-Elect. The

following are a few thoughts and images of his experience at the conference:

Rotary International President-Elect Mark Maloney's Vision

Grow Rotary

Create new membership models and find new paths to Rotary membership

Create new Rotary and Rotaract Clubs

Involve our families

Build a viable path to Rotary leadership

United Nations Partnerships



A key part of International Assembly is the new theme. Here is Rotary President-Elect Mark Maloney announcing **Rotary Connects the World**



Mark Maloney, Rotary International President-Elect Introduces 2019-2020 Rotary Theme at San Diego District Governor-Elect International Assembly



Jack and Jan Solomon formally meet incoming Rotary International President, Mark Maloney, and his wife, Gay

[Read More](#)

West Haven Rotary New Member Invitational Event



In late January, West Haven Rotary put on their first New Member Invitational event. Held at a local restaurant on a Thursday evening, the club served up hot hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and lots of fellowship. Presentations were also made describing the club's local impact as well as what Rotary does throughout the world. Five guests attended the event and based on their comments at the end of the evening the club is expecting to shortly receive 5 applications for membership!

To learn more about the West Haven Rotary Club, visit <https://www.facebook.com/WestHavenRotary>

DISTRICT TIP: If 3 or more Rotary Clubs in our District jointly hold a New Member Invitational event, they can receive a grant of up to \$400 to help defray the cost of the event.

Rotary Builds Business



Rotary Builds Business is Building Momentum in District 7980!

Submitted by Cindy Fitch, AG & Chairman Rotary Builds Business Committee

You've asked for it and here it is...the next **District-wide Rotary Builds Business event** will be held on February 19th at the **Supercharged Indoor Karting and Trampoline Park, 1 Sachatello Industrial Drive,**

Montville CT, from 6:00 - 8:30pm. Join us for a night of fun as we network among fellow Rotarians to share resources and help each other grow our businesses! Rotarians are invited to bring one prospective member to this event, as we've recognized that RBB can help attract new members. **There is NO cost to attend, this is a FREE Event!**

Please pre-register on DACdb clicking this link: [Link to DACdb for Registration](#) so that we will have an accurate headcount, as we will be serving light refreshments. And yes, there is a bar! Many thanks to Michael Whitehouse, VP of the Groton Club, for securing this exciting and creative venue for the evening...bring your racing gloves!

Please keep in mind that you do not need to be 'in business' to attend! All Rotarians are 'consumers' and in need of products and services! Wouldn't you rather do business with a Rotarian who follows the 4-Way Test than to Google-search an attorney, CPA, dry cleaner, wedding planner, etc?

Attached is a flyer you can use to promote the event. Bring along your business cards, promo materials for your business, give aways, hand outs and wear your name tag!

Thanks and I'll see you there!

Next Generations Set for March 2, 2019



Next Generations is a high school leadership program designed and facilitated by Interact students across District 7980. This day-long conference encourages students to venture outside their comfort zones by engaging in thought-provoking discussion and participating in activities related to a given topic.

Sessions revolve around various topics that include sexuality, global issues, technology, racial and social inequalities, and more. These

concepts are not typically discussed in an academic setting, so participants often find it rewarding and refreshing to be able to express their thoughts in a respectful, inviting environment.

[Read More](#)

District 7980 Club Milestones



Congratulations to our District 7980 Clubs recently celebrating significant anniversaries:

Norwich-Sunrise Rotary - 20 Years
Westport-Sunrise Rotary - 30 Years
Orange Rotary - 50 Years
Branford Rotary - 90 Years
Naugatuck Rotary - 90 Years

And, let's not forget the Club anniversaries coming up later this year:

New Canaan Rotary - 60 Years
Cheshire Rotary - 80 Years
East Haven Rotary - 80 Years
Fairfield Rotary - 80 Years
Newtown Rotary - 80 Years
Norwalk Rotary - 90 Years
Bridgeport Rotary - 100 Years

Congratulations to all of these amazing milestones.



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.