

Rotary

District 7570



Governor's Message | February 2025

By Bret W. Hrbek

Building Peace, One Cup of Turkish Coffee at a Time

February's Rotary theme—[Peace and Conflict Resolution](#)—couldn't be more fitting. To celebrate, I'm heading to the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul later this month. Yes, Istanbul—the city where East meets West, where history and modernity collide and where I fully intend to consume my weight in baklava. It's the perfect setting to discuss peace because, if history has taught us anything, achieving peace takes patience, dialogue and probably a dangerously strong cup of Turkish coffee.

This year, we're also celebrating a milestone in Rotary's peacebuilding efforts: the establishment of the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center, the first Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East, in partnership with Bahçeşehir University. This center is a powerful testament to Rotary's unwavering commitment to fostering understanding and resolving conflict where it's needed most.

Now, I know what you're thinking: *"Bret, does this mean you're bringing back world peace in your carry-on?"* Well, I'll certainly try—but between security checks and baggage fees, it might be tricky. What I can promise is that I'll return with insights, stories and strategies, and I'd love to share them with your clubs.

Once I'm back, I'd love to speak at your clubs about what I learned, how peacebuilding affects us both globally and locally, and what practical steps we, as Rotarians, can take to make a real difference. Because let's be honest—when we hear "peace and conflict resolution," we often picture diplomats in suits, historical treaties and dramatic handshakes. And yes, Rotary was at the table when the United Nations was founded. But peacebuilding isn't just for world leaders; it's for all of us. It's in how we handle difficult conversations at work, how we navigate family disagreements and how we, as Rotarians, build bridges in our communities instead of walls. This is the Magic of Rotary.

Peace doesn't happen overnight. It starts small—with service projects that bring people together, conversations that foster understanding and clubs like ours that believe in making the world—our little piece of it—a better place.

Your District Leadership



[Bret W. Hrbek](#)
District Governor



[Andrew P. Vanhook](#)
DG-Elect



[Charlotte G. Whitted](#)
DG-Nominee



[Paula K. Alston](#)
iPDG



[Nina D. Thornton](#)
Administrative Assistant Governor



[Timothy Carter](#)
District Rotary Foundation Chair (DRFC)



[Richard M. Novak](#)
District Membership Chair (DMC)



[Cora A. Gnegy](#)
District Public Image/PR Chair (DPIC)

Mark Your Calendars!

February 6th

[District Team Learning Seminar - Register Here](#)

February 15th

[District Grants with Marc Hudson](#)

February 19th

[President-Elect Monthly Online Learning Session](#)

And you know one of the best ways to create more peace? Let's grow! Invite more people to be part of the greatest humanitarian, peace-building and peace-making organization in the world—Rotary. The more of us there are, the greater our impact. Plus, let's be honest—we could all use more friends who know how to resolve an argument without flipping a table.

See you soon! In the meantime, let's keep working for peace—one Rotary meeting (and one strong cup of coffee) at a time.

BRET W. HRBEK

2024-2025 District Governor

Thanks for impacting 59,028 lives with grant 23-41059 to impact 1 million lives in 2025

By Walter Kahnrad Hughes Jr.



A February 2025 updated: We really appreciate your support of \$10,000 in DDF from District 7570. It made a huge difference. We drilled 60 new boreholes in various communities within the Kumasi Metropolitan, Obuasi Municipal, Obuasi East, Dunkwa, and Akrofuom Districts Assemblies. We built 566 household microflush toilets. We have additionally empowered 58 individuals through small business and farm loans. We partnered with communities and four district assembly WASH

departments to get this job done. The work has been done in 60 communities. The impacted lives are in Ashanti and Central Regions of Ghana. Twelve of the new boreholes have electric pumps. The remaining boreholes have hand pumps. We trained over 480 people on how to manage their community water systems in their WATSAN Committees. We have empowered communities and district assemblies to contribute toward solving their own problems. We impacted 59,028 lives. We have also completed a 12-unit school toilet block at Kumasi Anglican School to serve the students.

Read more below on the project outline and goals: Global Grant 24-60049, Water and Sanitation with Economic Impact in Ghana will drill 36 new wells including 8 small-town water systems and build 376 composting Microflush toilets for communities. We will administer micro-credit loans for wells and household toilets. 20 farmers and small businesses shall receive lending support to boost their business. This will improve the economic strength of our communities. The budget is \$190,000. This project is jointly hosted by Rotary Clubs of Obuasi and Kumasi in District 9104 in

March 1st

Marching Madly Against Polio

March 6th

D7570 Presidents-Elect Learning Seminar (PELS) (formerly PETS)

March 8th

Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

March 8th

Wine & Cheese

April 3rd

110th Annual District 7570 Conference 2025

April 26th

Ride with Rotary

Rotary Conference Registration Open

Rotary Conference Registration is open! From April 3-6, 2025, we're gathering at the beautiful Inn at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA for a weekend of inspiration, learning, and unforgettable fellowship.

Why Attend?

This year's conference promises to be an exciting event! Here's what you can look forward to:

Engaging Speakers – Hear from renowned experts like Richard Reeves on rebuilding relationships, Steve Lerch on the power of AI, Rotarian and Holocaust survivor Sam Harris on critical lessons from history, and more! Check the conference website for more updates and speakers.

Show-Stopping Entertainment – Tap your toes to Dueling Pianos, sing along with a Beatles Tribute Band, and enjoy camaraderie that only Rotary can offer.

Hands-On Fun – Create a lasting memory with arts and crafts, where you can paint LOVE letters or a peace pole to symbolize connection and peace in your community.

Fellowship Like Never Before – Share stories, laughter, and ideas with Rotarians from across the district. From Pints for Polio to a Wine & Chocolate Tasting and our annual Whiskey Tasting, there's something for everyone.

The Famous Rotary Cookie Table – In honor of RI president Stephanie Urchick, Saturday night will be Pittsburgh food theme. Bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share at our cookie table—a sweet tradition that connects us all. Taste your way through a variety of treats and maybe discover a new favorite!

Ghana. The lead Rotary Club is Obuasi. Our team will impact 37,994 lives. This project exceeds our goal of impacting one million lives cumulatively including previous projects. Your Rotary Club funds are matched by Rotarians in 18 US States, 30 Rotary Districts, 3 Canadian Provinces and Ghana. Past President Abdul Mumin Tahir from Rotary Club of Obuasi is the primary contact for this project. This partnership will also strengthen relations between Rotarians across the world.



Broadway Timberville Rotary Christmastime Service

By Nancy Hopkins-Garriss



Christmas is a special time of giving and service for the [Rotary Club of Broadway Timberville](#). Each year, club members join together to shop for gifts for children from the schools in the Broadway Timberville area and individual members of the club play “secret Santa” for some of the people supported by Pleasant View Inc. The club also donates \$500 to each of the area schools for their backpack and hunger programs.

A school in our area identifies 20 children from families who will not be able to give the children gifts for Christmas. On a Saturday in early December, Rotarians get together and go shopping for gifts, spending about \$1500. After the fun of shopping together for others, the group meets for a wonderful time of fellowship at Thomas Restaurant in Dayton, Va.

Soon after the club’s founding in 2004, Rotarians became aware that many of the people supported by Pleasant View, Inc. (PVI), a nonprofit supporting individuals who have developmental disabilities, missed out on gifts for Christmas morning. Due to

Professional Networking Opportunities – Build connections with business leaders, attorneys, and professionals from across the district. Share insights, forge partnerships, and explore opportunities to grow your impact both in your career and in service.

Learn & Grow – Participate in interactive breakouts, youth-focused sessions, and discussions that showcase the heart of Rotary’s mission.

Make an Impact – Roll up your sleeves and join the district service project on Saturday afternoon. Together, we’ll demonstrate Rotary’s commitment to making a difference while having fun and connecting with one another.

Memorial Service and Final Awards – Celebrate our Rotary family, reflect on our impact, and look forward to the future.

To Register

<https://www.rotary7570conference.com/>

Wind River Chimes

After a long day, stressful week, or in times of grief, wind chimes deliver a moment of calm in a spirit of simplicity. Their gentle notes ring in time with the wind, and remind us that we, like the wind, are part



of a far larger creation. Since 2006, Jamie & Patty Baisden and the craftsmen at Wind River have been delivering moments of calm to a hectic landscape – one porch at a time. At Wind River we work to inspire harmony, and this purpose extends beyond our livelihoods to each connection we have to the communities we serve.

Wind River® chimes are handcrafted in Manassas Park, VA and inspired by the shores, mountains and valleys of the place we call home. They also reflect the spirit and landscapes of communities throughout the United States. From top to bottom, tubes to strikers—every Wind River® chime is made almost entirely from American-sourced materials. We use string and pipe from New York, Georgia and Florida, native hardwood from Pennsylvania, metal components from the Midwest, and sustainable, rot-resistant California redwood.

institutionalization or other issues, many adults who have disabilities have lost their families connections. PVI staff members identify individuals who will receive little or nothing to open on Christmas morning, and the Rotarians take a name and shopping list to be their Santa. These beautifully wrapped presents are taken to each individual's home where they wait for Christmas morning. The joy they bring is beyond description, for the individuals who have disabilities and also each Rotarian who gives a gift!

Lexington Sunrise New Member & Holiday Festivities

By Ruth Anne Parsons

The [Rotary Club of Lexington Sunrise](#) held a Christmas Breakfast/Membership Recruitment event on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at Grace Episcopal Church. All guests were welcomed and introduced. President Jim Halasz and Board Member Monty Kennedy



assisted President Elect Ruth Parsons with setting up and preparing for the event. This included dressing the tables with magical Santa collectible centerpieces, fancy napkins, plates, and silverware. Jim Halasz's wife (Deb) made three kinds of scones, and Mexican cornbread for the breakfast fare. Ruth whipped up breakfast quiche, muffins, and her mother's Jewish Sour Cream Coffee Cake.

Ron Perkins was inducted into the membership during the meeting by Club President Jim Halasz. Ron is a former member of the club in years past. He will be championing the Wreaths Across America program, with future support from the Club foundation. Ron gave a brief presentation on the program to the club members and their guests at the breakfast. Goodie bags were given to the children, members and their guests. A good time was had by all who attended this joyous occasion.

Giles Rotary | Supports Local Baby Store

Mary Collins, Susan Kidd, and Daph Huffman delivered diapers, baby wipes, and pull-ups to the [Giles County Baby Store](#) in early February 2025. The Giles Club leans into service

Wind River® is pleased to offer our line of fully licensed [Rotary International® wind chimes](#). With each passing breeze, these wind chimes sing a song of harmony and hope. As members and supporters of Rotary International®, we are proud to share 10% of our gross sales of these wind chimes.

Yours in Rotary, Jamie & Patty Baisden



Submit Your Rotary History

By Paula K. Alston

Help us preserve the written story of District 7570 club history. D7570 is fortunate to have a storage room at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center in Blacksburg to house our records and memorabilia. In addition, the district will save any electronic resources provided by clubs for future reference.

This is a good time for the outgoing club presidents to complete a Club History form to record highlights from the previous Rotary year. It's also a good resource for past presidents to complete for their year as president. Please take a moment to review this form and complete one for as many Rotary years as possible. Forms may be emailed to DG Paula Alston (paulakalston@gmail.com), who will save them in the history archives room. Form link: [Click here](#)

Women in Rotary

Be sure to visit our District Facebook page throughout the month of March. March is Women's History Month and District Governor Bret is highlighting women leaders in our Rotary District.

[Visit District Facebook Page.](#)

projects that support youth, education, and poverty. This is a repeat project that the club enjoys. Recently Giles County experienced flooding due to Hurricane Helene that caused a major shortage in items for the Baby Store, so this project helped ease the pressure felt by this community impact organization.



The [Giles County Rotary Club](#) will also be delivering Valentine's cards and gifts to the area nursing home this month. A great month of service!

