

# Rotary

## District 7570



### Governor's Message | January 2025

By Bret W. Hrbek

Happy New Year, Rotarians!

January—the month when gym memberships surge, resolutions are made (and often broken) and we all secretly wonder why we ate so many cookies in December. It's also Rotary's [Vocational Service](#) Month, the perfect time to reflect on how we can use our unique skills and talents to make the world a better place.

Vocational Service is one of Rotary's superpowers, reaching back to our very founding. It's a reminder that what we do from 9 to 5 can change lives from 5 to 9. Whether you're a teacher shaping young minds, a financial advisor balancing ledgers (and possibly New Year budgets) or a healthcare professional helping others stay healthy after *their* cookie season, your vocation is a powerful tool for good.

With the start of a new year, we naturally think about the future. I challenge every club to find ways to turn professional expertise into projects that matter. Host a career day to inspire the next generation, mentor young adults to navigate life's challenges or start a skills training program for those in need. And for those of you thinking, "I'm retired!"—congratulations, but you're not off the hook. Your experience is a goldmine for mentoring others, and your Rolodex (or smartphone) is still Rotary's best-kept secret weapon.

Membership is the foundation of all we do. Without new members, we're just a group of really nice people with funny pins and great stories about the way things used to be. The truth is, we need fresh faces, new ideas and people who laugh at our jokes even when they've heard them before. Use this month focusing on Vocational Service to determine what professions are missing in your club.

So here's my challenge: find one person this month who would make a great Rotarian. It could be the local barista who always spells your name right, the tech-savvy neighbor who knows how to fix your Wi-Fi or the coworker who's a human sunshine emoji. Invite them to a meeting or service project.

As we embrace 2025, let Vocational Service Month remind us that we don't stop being Rotarians or applying the Four-Way Test when we take off our swag. We are

### 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! Click the event for more details.**

January 6th

**[Zoomformation Call with RID Patrick Eakes](#)**

January 7th

**[Zone 33 Monthly District Innovative Club Advocate \(ICA\) Me](#)**

January 10th

**[RLI - Annual Meeting and Faculty Update](#)**

Rotarians inside the workplace too. Let's show the world what happens when talented, driven and slightly over-caffeinated people come together to make a difference. And let's do it with humor, heart and the determination that makes Rotary truly unstoppable.

Here's to a year of service, growth and yes—fewer cookies (with the exception of [District Conference](#), where I fully expect a great cookie table!).

**BRET W. HRBEK**

2024-2025 District Governor

## **RYLA Recap 2024**

By Inez J. Rodenburg



From December 6th to 8th, 54 Rotary clubs across District 7570 united to sponsor 122 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, inspiring and empowering them to become impactful leaders. These students delved into their personality styles, etiquette, Rotary Youth Exchange, and most importantly, leadership skills. Dr. Jain's keynote speech left them with 10 tangible skills for their leadership toolbox, setting the stage for their future success.

Beyond the enlightening sessions, students enjoyed line dancing, board games, campus excursions to the dining hall, and a spectacular dance night with DJ Earl Brown. The excitement continued with the Four Way Speech Contest, where eight students competed fiercely, culminating in Gabriel Tweedie from Warren County winning first place. Jaya Vashisth took home the prize for the RYLA T-shirt contest.

On December 8th, District Governor Amelia Stansell from District 7610 delivered a powerful presentation on Empowering Students with CAPE (Community Awareness & Prevention Education). A monumental moment occurred when District Governor Bret Hrbek, District Governor - Elect Andy Vanhook, and District Governor Nominee Charlotte Whitted signed the District

January 11th

**[RLI District 7680 - Part I, II, III, Grad - Kannapolis, NC](#)**

January 13th

**[Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinars 2024-25](#)**

January 13th

**[Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar >>>JOIN NOW](#)**

January 14th

**[DACdb U-Calendar and Events](#)**

January 14th

**[District 7620 - Part II - Virtual - January 14-15, 2025](#)**

January 14th

**[CART Donor Appreciation Virtual Social](#)**

January 15th

**[Lunch A La CART with Dr. Catherine Diaz-Asper](#)**

January 15th

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

January 16th

**[CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting](#)**

January 16th

**[Zones 33-34 FOUNDATION MATTERS Webinar >>>JOIN NOW](#)**

January 18th

**[RLI-District 7750 - Part I - Lancaster, SC](#)**

January 18th

**[DACdb U-Calendar and Events](#)**

January 20th

**[CART Governance Committee Meeting](#)**

January 20th

**[Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call](#)**

January 22nd

**[CART Executive Committee Meeting](#)**

January 25th

**[RLI-District 7730-Parts I, II, III - Leland, NC](#)**

January 30th

**[Multi-District Project Fair • Explore Rotary Projects in Bolivia](#)**

February 1st

**[RLI-District 7720-Parts I, II, III - Rocky Mount, NC](#)**

February 1st

**[RLI-District 7600-Part I - Farmville, VA](#)**

February 3rd

**[Zoomformation Call with RID Patrick Eakes](#)**

February 3rd

**[Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar >>>JOIN NOW](#)**

February 4th

**[Zone 33 Monthly District Innovative Club Advocate \(ICA\) Me](#)**

February 6th

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

February 8th

**[RLI-District 7710-Parts I, II and III-Clayton, NC](#)**

February 11th

7570 pledge to support the vital mission to eradicate human trafficking.

Rotary's unwavering commitment to empowering youth was vividly demonstrated through the success of RYLA. Special thanks extends to all the clubs, chaperones, and volunteers whose dedication made this event a resounding success. Together, we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

## Update | Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Donation

By Pauline S. Adams

Update January 2025:

A dedication of the 10 houses, both 8 new builds and 2 renovations, was held at the site today. (December 19, 2024)

A special part of the program was the Bibles passed around for signatures and written thoughts by those attending and those who had participated in the building of the homes. Members of several churches and construction companies were present to be recognized as were several of the recipients of the new homes.

Pictured are just two homes. The others were a little farther away and as you can see in the next set of photos there was so much mud on the road I did not want to drive out there.



### **DACdb U-Calendar Registration Questions**

February 11th

**District 7620 - Part III - Virtual - Feb 11-12, 2025**

February 15th

**RLI-District 7750-Parts I, II, III - Anderson, SC**

February 15th

**DACdb U-Calendar Registration Questions**

February 17th

**Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call**

February 19th

**President-Elect Monthly Online Learning Session**

February 20th

**CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting**

February 22nd

**District 7770 - Part I, II and III - Bluffton, SC**

February 26th

**Lunch A La CART with Dr. Tsuneya Ikezu**

March 3rd

**Zoomformation Call with RID Patrick Eakes**

March 4th

**Zone 33 Monthly District Innovative Club Advocate (ICA) Me**

March 6th

**President-Elect Learning Seminar 2025**

March 8th

**Wine & Cheese Fundraiser**

March 8th

**Wine & Cheese**

March 10th

**Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar >>>JOIN NOW**

March 17th

**Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call**

March 20th

**CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting**

March 29th

**District 7670 - Part I, II and III - Asheville, NC**

April 1st

**Zone 33 Monthly District Innovative Club Advocate (ICA) Me**

April 3rd

**110th Annual District 7570 Conference 2025**

April 7th

**Zoomformation Call with RID Patrick Eakes**

April 8th

**DACdb U-Essentials for New Members**

April 10th

**DCO (District Communications Officer) Spring Meeting**

April 12th

**RLI-District 7730-Parts I, II, III - Location Pending**

April 14th

**Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar >>>JOIN NOW**

April 17th

The site of the destruction is enough to make me cry as I drive by and see the mud, the flattened trees and bushes, the bridges that are now being rebuilt so people don't have to drive 30 minutes to get around in their neighborhood.

I have no other comment except to give my humble appreciation to all those who work to rebuild these areas to bring back the beauty of East Tennessee.



Presentation of donated funds to the [Appalachia Service Project](#) (ASP) from a donor who contacted PDG Dick Ray who then included Area Governor Pauline Adams in presenting the donation to the organization.

Shown in the photo are (left) Pauline Adams Area 14 AG, (center) Melisa Winburn President/CEO of ASP, (right) Dick Ray PDG.



## Buena Vista Rotary Club Brings Thanksgiving Joy to Local Families

By Laura Johnson

### **CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting**

April 19th

### **DACdb U-Essentials for New Members**

April 21st

### **Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call**

April 26th

### **District 7600 - Part I - Virtual - April 26 2024**

May 5th

### **Zoomformation Call with RID Patrick Eakes**

May 6th

### **Zone 33 Monthly District Innovative Club Advocate (ICA) Me**

May 12th

### **Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar >>>JOIN NOW**

May 13th

### **DACdb U-Preparation for Rollover to 2025 26**

May 15th

### **CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting**

May 17th

### **DACdb U-Preparation for Rollover to 2025 26**

May 19th

### **Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call**

June 2nd

### **Zoomformation Call with RID Patrick Eakes**

June 3rd

### **Zone 33 Monthly District Innovative Club Advocate (ICA) Me**

June 9th

### **Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar >>>JOIN NOW**

June 10th

### **DACdb U-DACdb Essentials for Club and District Leadership**

June 16th

### **Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call**

June 19th

### **CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting**

June 21st

### **DACdb U-DACdb Essentials for Club and District Leadership**

## District Awards | Applications Now Open

By Josie Russell

The 2024-2025 District Conference Award Applications are now open! Our District Conference Awards Committee, along with fellow Rotarians in District 7570, are eager to see the amazing accomplishments your clubs have achieved over the past year.

To submit, visit <https://www.rotary7570.org/district->



In the spirit of giving, the [Buena Vista Rotary Club](#) was honored to join forces with Buena Vista Public Schools, The Community Foundation, and Feed the Need to ensure everyone in our community could celebrate Thanksgiving with a hearty meal. This Thanksgiving Box Giveaway was for the whole school system with students, teachers, and staff all participating. There were no specific requirements - if a family requested one, they got one.

Volunteers from all of the organizations gathered at Parry McCluer Middle School on Friday, November 22, 2024 to distribute the essential fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to families in need. The box included gravy, stuffing, canned vegetables, potatoes, and even a 12-15 pound turkey funded by the Community Foundation in association with Feed the Need.

This is the second year that the Buena Vista Rotary Club has assisted with the program. They were able to do so as a result of the concession stand proceeds from the Fridays in The Park concert series. Last year, they also received a grant from Rotary District 7570 for a portion of the cost. Rotary clubs worldwide are known for their dedication to service projects and community support and this event was no exception.

For those involved, the event was about more than just distributing food—it was a reminder of the power of community and the importance of giving back. As the holiday season continues, the Buena Vista Rotary Club remains committed to supporting those in need and spreading goodwill throughout the area.

## Care Packages Sent to Servicemen and Women by Danville Rotary

By Sheila Baynes

[conference-awards/](#) and scroll down to the blue button labeled "SUBMIT A CLUB AWARD APPLICATION." Select this button for each award category your club would like to enter (there are 10 categories total). Please remember, only one application per category is allowed per club.

Applications are due by Saturday, February 1st.

For any questions, feel free to reach out to Josie Russell.

## 2025 Poetry Contest

Feeling Poetic? Then try this...

In association with Rotary International the e-club of Innovation present *The Rotary Poet of the Year Awards*

A fantastic exciting Rotary competition open to every Rotarian, Rotaractor, Interactor, Rotakid, Rotary Club and friends of.

Will You Be ....  
**Rotary**  
Poet of the Year 

## 2025

Everyone can enter, so let's put pen to paper or press those keys. Individual or club submissions are also welcome. If the winner is in our district, they will receive their award from me, either at a club meet or a special Rotary Poetry event unless the winner is at The Rotary International Convention in Calgary in June 2025 it will be awarded by RI President Stephanie Urchick

Everyone is welcome to be

**Rotary**  
Poet of the Year



Enter here:  
[www.rotarypoetry.org](http://www.rotarypoetry.org)

There are 2 categories to choose from Open and *The Magic of Rotary*

Raise Rotary awareness. Share with your friends. Have a club poetry night.

This is a real opportunity for friendship and fellowship

Good Luck  
Your District Governor 2024/25

Enter Here: [www.rotarypoetry.org](http://www.rotarypoetry.org)

## District Governor 27-28 Announcement



Each year around the holidays for 20 years, [Danville Riverview Rotary Club](#) collects items or donations in order to send care packages to servicemen and women, generally with a connection to our club that are serving outside the continental US.

Over the years, we have shipped packages to all branches of the military in locations such as Afghanistan, all over the Middle East, S. Korea, Alaska just to name a few. Over the years, we have had assistance from our Interact Clubs as well as outside organizations.

We strive to send more care packages than they can handle as it is common for them to share with folks in their unit who might not receive packages or just need a treat. Club member Brett Jackson heads this yearly service project.

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# AMBER WILBORNE

2027-2028

District Governor

Amber Wilborne is a member of the Rotary Club of Roanoke-Downtown.

Amber has been an active member at the District level as well. She served as Public Image Committee Chairman and from a member of the 2022, 2024 and upcoming 2026 District Conference Committees. Amber also served on the Foundation Celebration Committee, organizing events such as "Polio-Free Africa" in 2019, "Cooking Together" in 2020 and "Diamonds and Denim" in 2021. Amber was the recipient of the Douglas E. Newton Excellence in Communication Award in 2022.

Amber is the incoming Administrative Area Governor for Rotary Year 2025-2026 and was recently selected by leadership to attend the Emerging Leaders Conference representing District 7570.

Along with her husband Tim, she is a major donor and an active member of both the Paul Harris Society and the PolioPlus Society.



Rotary   
District 7570

Visit our [FACEBOOK page](#) for larger image.