

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

April 9, 2025



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

April 9 Program – Dr. Daniel W. Smith

Club Calendar

April is Maternal and Child Health Month

April 23 - Stafford Schools Career Day Service Project at Stafford Airport (7a - 3p)

April 26 - District Training Assembly

April 26 - Evening, time TBD, Escape Room social with North Stafford Club

May 3 - RLI I, II, and III at PATH Foundation in Warrenton

May 10 – Relay for Life

June 21-25 – Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta

September 27-28 -Via Colori

Dr. Daniel W. Smith joined the Stafford County Public Schools as superintendent with more than 20 years of transformative leadership experience and unwavering dedication to student success. Known for his student-centered approach, Dr. Smith has a proven history of fostering academic excellence, promoting equitable access, and nurturing inclusive school communities.



Most recently, as Chief of Staff and Acting Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools—one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing districts—Dr. Smith oversaw a \$1.8 billion budget supporting 83,000 students across 100 schools. During his tenure, he led significant improvements in student outcomes, boosting graduation rates and reducing chronic absenteeism. His leadership was instrumental in securing Loudoun's first fully funded budget in six years, restoring community trust, and narrowing achievement gaps across core subjects.

Dr. Smith is known for championing forward-thinking initiatives, such as specialized academies in Health and Medical Sciences, dual language immersion programs, and expanded mental health services. His collaborative approach has fostered meaningful partnerships and ensured that every voice is valued in the pursuit of educational excellence.

As a lifelong advocate for Virginia's public schools, Dr. Smith is excited to work alongside Stafford County's students, families, staff, and community to build on the district's strengths and pursue a bold vision for the future.

He and his wife, Michelle, who have been married for over 21 years, are thrilled to join the Stafford County community. They have two children: Caden, a freshman at Virginia Tech, and Liliana, who looks forward to attending Stafford County Public Schools.

Dr. Smith holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Virginia and is a respected voice in education across the state and beyond.

April 2 Meeting

President Jamie presided over our Zoom only meeting. He gave the Thought of the Day, a quote from Harriet Tubman: “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world.”

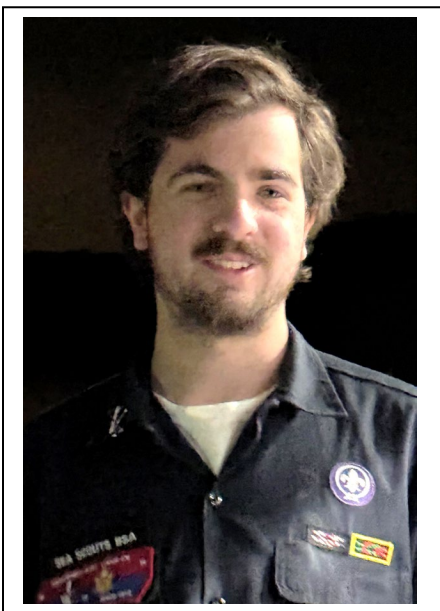
He discussed the activities for the very busy Rotary Day on April 2:

- ❖ 3 pm- meeting about the district grant project
- ❖ 5 pm - Area Service Project at the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank
- ❖ 7 pm – Via Colori 2025 kickoff meeting at 7 pm

Announcements:

- ❖ April 26-District Training Meeting
- ❖ May 3-RLI in Warrenton. The club will reimburse club members who attend.
- ❖ May 10 – Relay for Life
- ❖ October 3-5 – District Conference

Program:



Our speaker was Carter Cooper. He has been in Scouting since 2010, taking part in all Scouting programs and is working on earning my Quartermaster Award. The Quartermaster award is the highest award in the Sea Scouting program, equivalent to the Eagle Scout rank. Carter, who is the elected youth leader and the able rank, also shared his personal achievements and experiences in scouting. Carter presented an in-depth overview of the Sea Scouts program, including its structure, activities, and community involvement.

He highlighted that Sea Scouts is a co-ed program focusing on adventure training and leadership development, with all activities related to water or boating. Carter emphasized that the group meets twice a month, with their current primary meeting place being Hope Springs Marina in Stafford. He also mentioned that they organize weekend events, with canoeing and kayaking being their primary focus.

Carter discussed the Sea Scouts program, which is part of the Boy Scouts of America. He explained that unlike the Scouts BSA program, Sea Scouts has four ranks: apprentice, ordinary,

able, and quartermaster, with quartermaster being the most difficult to achieve. Carter also shared the program's history, noting that Sea Scouts was founded in England in 1910 and later introduced to America. He mentioned that Sea Scouts separated from the venturing program in 2016 and became co-ed, allowing boys and girls to join. Carter emphasized that Sea Scouts is a youth-led program, with the youth making key decisions and the adults providing support.

Carter discussed the structure and roles within their scouting program, emphasizing the importance of youth leadership and adult support. He explained the positions of senior patrol leader, bosun's mates, and side positions, as well as the election process for these roles. Carter also highlighted the adult leadership roles, including the skipper and his mates, and the ship committee, which assists with paperwork, money management, and maintaining contact with the chartering organization. He stressed the importance of youth protection training for all adults and the need for at least two over 21 adults and female adults when female youth are present. Carter also touched on the safety protocols for boating and swimming activities.

He discussed the disbandment of Ship 1935 due to the Quantico Yacht Club's inability to stay on base, which led to recruitment difficulties and financial issues. He then shared his efforts to establish a new Sea Scout ship in Stafford County, which began with leadership training in February and a quartermaster service project in March. The service project involved removing and replacing benches at Curtis Park, requiring significant labor and financial resources. Carter emphasized the project's challenges and the 190 hours of service it entailed.

Carter provided an overview of Sea Scouts and Ship 11, noting that they have 5 youth members and 6-7 adults, with most members already part of scouting. Carter is about to age out, which will reduce the youth members to 4. The program is co-ed but currently has no female members. Donna and 17038873154 inquired about the possibility of female members, with 17038873154 suggesting it may take time to reach out to girls about the program. He discussed the need for more members in the ship, as he will be absent for the summer and the ship's leadership is changing. He emphasized the importance of recruiting to ensure the ship's continuity and expressed interest in a job at a national high adventure base in Florida. When asked about the recruitment strategy Carter explained that he primarily uses his scouting connections and has recruited from the last Sea Scout ship. He also mentioned the challenge of scheduling conflicts with existing scouts.

The group discussed potential recruitment strategies, such as reaching out to high school swim teams, the Rouse Center, and Navy/Coast Guard recruiters. They also considered partnering with the local Rotary Club's Interact program at Mountain View High School. The conversation ended with an invitation for further assistance and a reminder of upcoming club activities.

Area Service Project, April 2





The Rappahannock Rotary Club, Fredericksburg Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Stafford, North Stafford Rotary Club and The Rotary Club of King George-Dahlgren gathered at the Fredericksburg Food Bank to pack boxes for the hungry! They packed 750 boxes in one and a half hours!





2025 UNC-Duke Rotary Peace Center Spring Conference Peace

District 7610 and Stafford Rotary Club were well represented at the conference,



