

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

August 28, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

August 28 – Visit to e3Kids Headquarters



Kids and education are the heart of our mission at e3kids international, a US-based nonprofit that supports schools, libraries, orphan care and clean water projects in Kenya and Guatemala. For more than a decade, they have partnered with local communities to equip, empower and educate youth to overcome extreme poverty. They also provide service-learning programs through school outreach, missions and volunteerism.

August 21 Meeting

President Jamie presided and welcomed guest Julie Spears and visiting Rotarians Earl Baughman, John Coker, Dave Bomhke and DG Amelia.

PDG Sandy gave the Thought of the Day: *“Life is a gift that the humblest may boast of
And one that the humblest may well make the most of.
Get out and live it each hour of the day,
Wear it and use it as much as you may:*

Club Calendar

August Is Membership & Extension Month

- ❖ August 28– Visit to e3Kids Headquarters.
- ❖ Sept. 4 "Regular Club Meeting Speaker: Veronica Gutierrez with Gwyneth's Gift Foundation"
- ❖ September 7 -Conflict Resolution Seminar
- ❖ Sept. 11 "Regular Club Meeting Speaker: 9/11 Program"
- ❖ September 18 -"Regular Club Meeting Speaker: Chloe Brackens from GMU and Via Colori Updates (Cheri Maea)"
- ❖ September 25 – Regular noon meeting Sean Lanier
- ❖ September 28, 29 -Via Colori
- ❖ October 4-6, 2024 – District Conference
- ❖ October 10/12 -Rotary Leadership Institute (registration opened!)
- ❖ October 24 - World Polio Day!
- ❖ November 2 - District Foundation Day!
- ❖ January 7 Get the Puck Out Polio! Noon game v. Rangers!
- ❖ February 20-22 – RI Peace Conference in Istanbul
- ❖ June 21-25 – Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta

*Don't keep it in niches and corners and grooves,
You'll find that in service its beauty improves.”*
Edgar A. Guest

(Personal note: Edgar Albert Guest (20 August 1881 – 5 August 1959) was a British-born American poet who became known as the People's Poet. When Donnell and I were first married he was stationed at Camp Perry, Ohio with neither television or money to go anywhere. Bud Guest, the poet's son, had a short daily program on a Detroit radio station. We listened often to his readings of his father's poems. PDG Sandy's choice for Thought of the Day brought back many memories of that summer.)

Announcements

- ❖ The District Conference is October 5-6. Our club is #1 in registered attendees to date.
- ❖ August 28 – Visit to e3Kids Headquarters. Please respond to the invitation. Lena needs to have an accurate count.
- ❖ IPDG Rene presented a Create Hope in the World citation given to our club.
- ❖ Youth Services – Kristy is working with Nicki and Donna organizing the Dictionary project. We hope to reach all SCPS third graders this year. We will be placing bookplates in all the dictionaries either October 2 or 9.
- ❖ Community Service: We are concentrating on Via Colori.
- ❖ The Rotary Foundation – Club giving report: per capita giving @ \$72.40 (4th in the district) and total giving @\$12,292 (2nd in the district). 2 Bequest Society members, 12 Major Donors, 23 Paul Harris Fellows, 16 Polio Plus Society Members, and 7 Benefactors.
- ❖ Membership Committee – Donna discussed using the Ignite app.
- ❖ Club Service – IPDG Rene highlighted upcoming weekly programs.



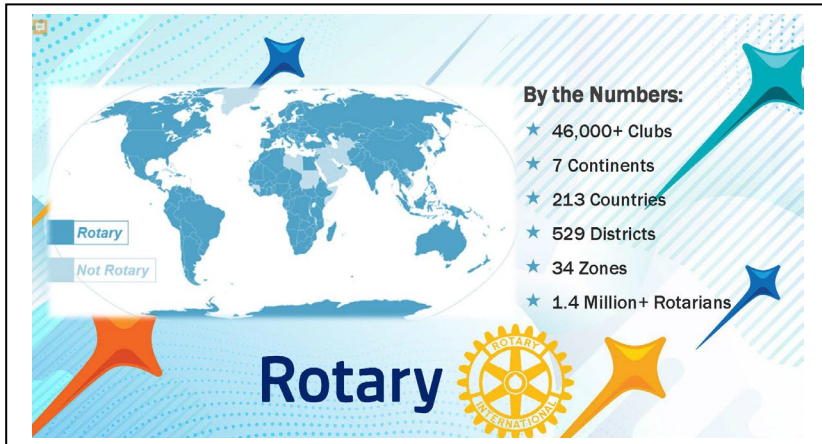
Program – DG Amelia Stansell

President Jamie introduced DG Amelia. She gave us an overview of our district and our zone.

We are each Rotary members in our clubs, and our 59 Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Northern and Central Virginia are part of District 7610, divided into 11 areas. Beyond that we are part of Zone 33 with 17 Districts, and Zone 34 also with 34 Districts which Rotary International Director Patrick Eakes presides and represents us on the RI Board for 2 years.

Rotary International consists of 1.4MM Rotary and Rotaract members in approx. 46,000 clubs in 529 Districts, in 34 Zones spanning 213 countries. Our Rotary

International President this year is Stephanie Urchick who was selected in late Summer 2022.



DG Amelia asked each of us to take one of the glittery paper stars that were on the table and write what we most love about Rotary on one side. On the other we were asked to write what we thought would make our club irresistible. She talked about the “Magic of Rotary” and irresistible Rotary clubs. She quoted RI President Stephanie: “We’re not going to bring peace to the world, end polio, or grow membership by waving a wand and saying some funny words. It’s up to you. YOU create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member inducted.”



The Rotary Action plan gives us a framework to create a club strategic plan. It has four parts –

- ❖ Increase our Impact
- ❖ Expand our Reach
- ❖ Enhance Participant Engagement
- ❖ Increase our Ability to Adapt

Increase Our Impact

- ★ Support The Rotary Foundation
- ★ Do more service projects!




Rotary.org/donate

Increase Our Impact

- ❖ Support The Rotary Foundation AND DO MORE Service Projects! Goal of \$1,000,000 to the Annual Fund Share this year – so we can do more good in 3 years! Half of that comes back to our

District for local and District projects and half goes to the world fund for global projects.

- ❖ Collaborative projects involving several clubs in our District such as the Strategic Water Alliance or the Guatemala Literacy project. Dolly Pardon Imagination Library (Gloucester, Charlottesville and Louisa)
- ❖ Global and Peace Scholars
- ❖ Global Grant opportunities (combat human trafficking, buy and outfit ambulances, create access to safe water & sanitation in the Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula)
- ❖ Ending polio – encourage clubs to take-on a End Polio Now campaign in October – or even become a 100% Polio Plus Society Club for \$100 annually – like the Manassas Club!
- ❖ Making a difference long after we are gone? The District’s Legacy Campaign to raise \$1MM in legacy donations by October 2025. \$10,000 outright gifts, spread it over 3 years as a pledges, or through your will with the Bequest Society)
- ❖ Enroll in Rotary Direct to fix it and forget it! Whether as a Paul Harris Society member at \$84 a month, or Sustaining Member at \$10 per month – or any other figure, consistent donations make all the difference.



Connect Outside Your Club

She discussed the many ways Rotarians can connect outside of their home club:

- ❖ Visit other clubs – This was more common when Rotary had stricter attendance rules, but it is still an excellent way to expand your Rotary experience.
- ❖ Get engaged with the District Committees (Membership, PI, Foundation, Youth, Emergency Preparedness, etc.)
- ❖ Go to the District or Rotary International learning events and conferences! The magic of our organization is in our members – connect with more of them!!
- ❖ District Action Groups are how we connect to our passion to serve!
- ❖ Rotary Fellowships – the way we gather to do things for fun/hobbies/etc.!

A.B.I.D.E.

DG Amelia discussed the many ways we can enhance the Rotary experience for Rotarians and potential new members with the key word ABIDE.

- ❖ Accessible – Can your members access the building, restrooms, food, audio, visual, etc.?
- ❖ Belonging – Do your members and guests feel welcomed when they come to a meeting or event? Do your members build true friendships? Are they missed when they aren't there? How do they know they are missed? Calls, emails, etc.?
- ❖ Inclusive – Do you ask members what their interests are and include members in meaningful activities to leverage their skills and interests?
- ❖ Diverse – Do you have members of differing backgrounds, races, genders, religions, etc. coming together to identify and solve problems?
- ❖ Equitable – What barriers are in the way for members and potential to serve with you? Are they financial, time commitment – something else? How can you remove those barriers?

Expand our Reach (Connect to new members in new ways)

DG Amelia discussed ways we can expand our reach by attracting new members and possibly starting new clubs by asking us the following questions{

- ❖ Is our own club irresistible to our members?
- ❖ Do people want to join?
- ❖ Have you sponsored a new member in the past year? Where did you find them? Why did you invite them? What did you say to encourage them to come?
- ❖ What do you think the reason is that people don't join Rotary? They aren't asked!!
- ❖ What does your club experience feel like when a guest comes?
- ❖ Is there a market we are missing? Maybe a Rotary desert nearby? Or an active adult community in your area?
- ❖ Public Image and Telling YOUR Story
- ❖ Hone your skills to tell YOUR Rotary Story, when someone asks you why are you in Rotary, what do you say?
- ❖ Wear your Rotary swag with pride!! If you don't have any, get some!
- ❖ Wear your Pin with pride! It represents all of US!!

She then discussed the district Rotaract clubs (UVA, UMW, Vienna). We are starting 4 new Rotaract Clubs: District e-Club & Northern Virginia Rotaract Club for Young Professionals and adding 2 at George Mason University! All clubs should be seeking internship opportunities for Rotaract members

She reminded us of the importance of Rotary Youth Programs - the seeds we plant today to harvest in years to come! We have a rich history of incredible Youth

programs in D7610 that fizzled during Covid – it is time to get that back!

- ❖ EarlyAct (kids are on FIRE to serve!)
- ❖ Interact / youth conference on April 26th
- ❖ Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is BACK!! Partnering with D-7620 President's Day weekend!
- ❖ Youth Exchange (outbound applications open this Fall – and inbound next spring!) – get prepared now!
- ❖ Youth Contests (Speech, Music and Essay on April 26th)
- ❖ District 7610 needs members to serve on the Youth Services committee!



Increase Our Ability to Adapt

- ☆ Learning & Development
- ☆ Continuous Improvement
- ☆ Club Visioning



DG Amelia reminded us that if we're standing still, we're falling behind. Here are some ways to develop as Rotarians.

- ❖ Learning & Development (in person and online learning opportunities)
- ❖ Rotary Leadership Institute is recommended for all Rotarians. The next class is coming October 12th!
- ❖ The Learning Center – online self-paced learning for role specific, or general leadership.
- ❖ District 7610 Toastmasters e-Club to help members with their speaking and listening skills.
- ❖ Continuous Improvement model and continuity planning
- ❖ Club Leadership Plan, good governance and a vision for the future!
- ❖ Start with a 3-5 year Club Visioning Action Plan. The District and RI have tools to help you do it!

At the end of the meeting Kristy gave the Foundation Minute about Rotary Peace Fellows in Sri Lanka.



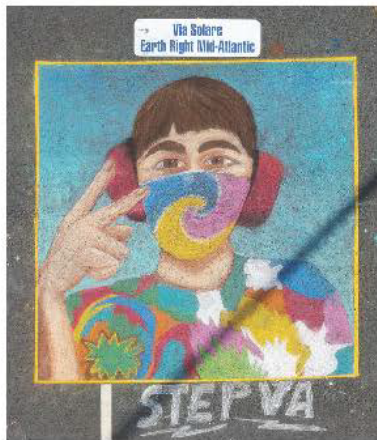
4th Annual



September 28-29, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Stafford Regional Airport

Sponsor an artist's square! Benefits:

- Your sponsor name displayed to thousands of attendees
- Support of Stafford County Public Schools' Stafford in Action Week, combating student hunger
- Provide artists' supplies and event support, allowing it to be free for all to attend



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A free two-day street painting festival showcasing 75 local artists. Thousands attend to watch artists, enjoy food and live entertainment, and meet community non-profits and major event sponsors, while kids enjoy their own art experience.

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Sponsorship: \$250 - 4'x4' square \$500 - 6'x6' square

Make checks payable to Via Colori Stafford. Provide to a team member or mail to 9 Kettlebrook Ct., Stafford, VA 22556. A 501(c)(3) donation receipt will be provided.

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