

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

December 11, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

December 11 – Stephanie Johnson with Stafford Education Foundation



Stephanie Johnson, Interim Executive Director of Stafford Education Foundation is no stranger to Stafford County Public Schools. She has served on the School Board, as a long term and daily substitute teacher, served on many school-based committees and had two children graduate from Stafford Schools. Her life outside Foundation work is shared by her husband Stan Johnson and adult children Simon and Sydney. Stephanie and Stan are also co-owners of Adventure Brewing and Stephanie runs her own voice over business,

StephJoVO.

They are 23-year residents of Stafford County and although Stan is retired, they have no plans to relocate because Stafford is truly home.

December 3 Meeting

In President Jamie's absence, Cheri led the meeting, discussing various club activities, including the upcoming Christmas party, conflict training, and mandatory brand training.

Club Calendar

December Is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

- ❖ December 11 - Speaker: Stephanie Johnson with Stafford Education Foundation
- ❖ December 18 – Annual Club Meeting
- ❖ December 25 – No Meeting! Merry Christmas!
- ❖ 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

Announcements

- ❖ December 18 – Annual Club Meeting,
- ❖ There was a discussion about the membership list and the need to have the list of active members up to date by the end of December.
- ❖ Thanks to the members who contributed to the Giving Tuesday event. She encouraged others to contribute to the Rotary Foundation. The year for the Polio Plus contribution starts on July 1st.
- ❖ IPDG Rene discussed Club Speakers, Networking, and Expansion and discussed a potential visit from Patrick Longano to talk about Ignite. She proposed inviting Interact and Rotary Act members and their families to an evening meeting in February or March, aiming to foster networking and support for youth entrepreneurship.
- ❖ She suggested setting up a date for a session with Stafford Rotarian, Delegate Joshua Cole, and the possibility of being recognized from the floor.
- ❖ There is a need for volunteers for a Volunteers for the Blind.
- ❖ Saturday, December 21, 5 pm, Club Holiday Party, hosted by Jamie and Dylan in Pentagon City.
- ❖ Christy, Renee, and Stafford to coordinate a Zoom meeting with Gregor about the youth project presentation.
- ❖ All members to reach out to absent members before December 31st to reengage them.
- ❖ Holly and Mark to work on Mark's resume to help him find new employment.
- ❖ Nikki to explore involving more Stafford County Public Schools staff in Rotary.

Classification Talks

Mark Ross, a George Mason University alumnus, shared his personal story of a life-altering accident that left him blind. Despite this, he has pursued various interests, including bartending and volunteering. Mark also expressed his passion for acting and directing, and his desire to find a way to continue these pursuits. He also shared his experience working for Holly Volunteers and his involvement with the Rotary Club. Additionally, Mark discussed his role in training Roxy, a guide dog for Holly, and the challenges they face in navigating public spaces. The conversation ended with Mark expressing his desire to find a job closer to his home in Northern Virginia.

Nikki, the Family Relations Coordinator for Stafford County public schools, shared her personal journey with the team. She discussed her background in athletic training, her decision to switch careers after having a child, and her current role in the communications office. She also talked about her three children, her husband's military career, and their recent decision to renovate their home to accommodate her aging parents..

Kristy discussed her journey into Rotary, highlighting her mentorship under Cheri and her current role as the formal liaison between Rotary and Stafford schools. She expressed interest in expanding partnerships and mentioned her involvement in the New Stafford location project.

December Is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

As the year winds down, December serves as a time to reflect on one of Rotary's core causes: Disease Prevention and Treatment. From eradicating polio to supporting mental health initiatives, Rotarians worldwide work tirelessly to improve health outcomes and build resilient communities.

