

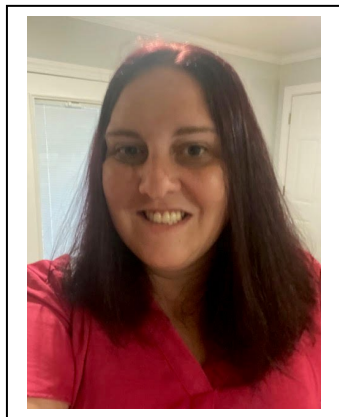
THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

February 12, 2025



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

February 12 – Kristy Freeman, Literacy Project Update



Literacy is one of Rotary International's areas of focus, along with education. Rotary's literacy programs aim to improve literacy for all ages and reduce gender disparity in education.

Rotary's literacy programs

- ❖ Community involvement: Rotary works with communities to strengthen their ability to provide basic education and literacy.
- ❖ Adult literacy: Rotary works to increase adult literacy in communities.
- ❖ Gender disparity: Rotary works to reduce gender disparity in education.
- ❖ Scholarships: Rotary provides scholarships to students who have the potential to transform their communities.
- ❖ Teacher training: Rotary shares knowledge and experience with educators and professionals who work with vulnerable populations.
- ❖ Mentoring programs: Rotary establishes mentoring programs to help people improve their reading skills.
- ❖ Literacy projects: Rotary clubs implement literacy projects, such as raising funds to buy books for schools or community groups.

Rotary's literacy programs are intended to help alleviate poverty, improve health, and stimulate community and economic growth.

Club Calendar

February Is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

- ❖ February 12 – Regular Virtual Noon Meeting Kristy Freeman
- ❖ February 19 - Regular Virtual Noon Meeting, Speaker: Tina Ramirez
- ❖ February 20-22 – RI Peace Conference in Istanbul
- ❖ February 26 – Evening Meeting - Long Markets Young Entrepreneurs Program" Venue tba
- ❖ June 21-25 – Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta
- ❖ September 27-28 -Via Colori

February 5 Meeting

Cheri Maea presided over the meeting. She began by giving a tribute to club member Holly Frisch, who died unexpectedly this past week:

Today, we pause to honor the life and legacy of Holly Frisch, a dedicated member of our Rotary Club since March 26, 2014, and a Rotarian since April 14, 2003. She was a leader, a mentor, and a true embodiment of "Service Above Self." As our Vocational Service Chair, Holly used her passion and dedication to create opportunities that uplifted others and strengthened our community.

Her impact reached far beyond our club. Holly was the founder and president of Volunteers for the Blind (VFB), a nonprofit organization based in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Through VFB, she worked tirelessly to support individuals with visual impairments, offering volunteer readers, shopping assistance, and internship opportunities to help individuals gain valuable work experience and computer skills. She was a champion for accessibility, ensuring that those with blindness had the resources and advocacy they needed to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Holly's work was widely recognized, including a feature in FXBG Advance in January 2024, which highlighted the profound impact of VFB on the community. She also organized numerous fundraisers, such as the Pampered Chef fundraiser in 2021, to sustain and expand these critical services. Additionally, she dedicated herself to the training of service animals, preparing guide dogs that would go on to transform lives by providing independence and companionship.

Holly's kindness, determination, and unwavering commitment to service have left an indelible mark on our club and community. Though we deeply feel her absence, her spirit lives on in the countless lives she touched, the friendships she nurtured, and the service she so effortlessly gave.

As we reflect on Holly's life, let us honor her memory by carrying forward her legacy—through compassion, generosity, and a steadfast commitment to making the world a better place.

In her honor, let us share a moment of silence.

For those wondering, I am coordinating with Mark and waiting on word from Holly's family as to the arrangements. Things are still in flux. If there isn't a formal local ceremony or honoring, we will put together something, and Mark recommended some options. So we are still waiting for a word on the best way forward, but regardless, we want to ensure we properly honor Holly's service, not only to Rotary, but to the community.

Several club members shared their own memories of Holly.

Announcements

- ❖ February noon meetings will continue to be held via Zoom only. The venue for our February 26 evening meeting will be announced later in the month.
- ❖ Relay for Life is May 3 at Berkeley Elementary School. More information will be forthcoming.
- ❖ On March 26 there will be an evening meeting at Fredericksburg Baptist Church. It will be a membership summit with the other are clubs.
- ❖ IPDG Rene asked us to send her ideas for speakers.
- ❖ March 22 – District Club Training and Foundation Awards
- ❖ Donald Duckworth gave a brief update on the Strategic Water Alliance. The Strategic Water Alliance (SWA) started back in 2007 with the Dulles Club with a project in Zambia that funded a 50 meter bore hole with a hand pump and tools for long term maintenance to provide running water for a village that had no water within miles of their homes. After this greatly successful project, the SWA was formed. For the next two years, members continued to travel to Zambia to learn more through photos and interviews with schools. In 2011-2012, the Dulles Club reached out to other clubs in District 7610 to band together for financing and spreading the workload. As more clubs joined the initiative, projects involving sanitation and hygiene education were developed to complement the other programs. From creating simple boreholes back in 2007, the SWA has transitioned into making large-scale, impactful projects all over the world, from submersible pumps to elevated storage tanks. Our club has been a partner for years. Current SWA projects are grants to provide water and sanitation for a school in Zambia and a global grant for a water system in Gambia.

Program –iPDG Rene, The Rotary Foundation


iPDG Rene gave an excellent presentation on the Rotary Foundation, focusing on the importance of setting district and club giving goals for the Annual Fund. She described the different funds of TRF and the way funds are distributed from the Annual Fund.

The Rotary Foundation...


... transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.

Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world.




One important district goal this year is to have at least 25% of the membership using [Rotary Direct](#) to make their donations to TRF.



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Forget





ROTARY DIRECT

Rotary's recurring giving program.



Scan QR code to sign up for Rotary Direct online.

There are three ways to enroll in Rotary Direct:

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Our district has an ambitious goal of getting new donors to support the Bequest Society at the \$10,000 level. This donation can be spread over three years.

We have many club members who have joined the Polio Plus Society, donating at least \$100 each year to the Polio Plus Fund. There are some 100% Polio Plus Society clubs in our district. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Stafford could be one of those clubs?





Annual Fund Goals

- Paul Harris Society (1000 pp)
- Sustaining Member (100 pp)
- Every-Rotarian-Every-Year (25-100 pp)
- Other Contributions (?)

iPDG Rene described club goals for donations to the Annual Fund. For many years our club was a 100% Sustaining Member Club, every single club member donating a minimum \$100 to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund each year. It's an easy thing to do with Rotary Direct.

