

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

January 15, 2025



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

Club Calendar

January 15 – Germanna’s Stafford Campus

We are going to have a field trip and tour of Germanna’s new Stafford campus! Meet at 10 Center Street Stafford, VA 22554 in the lobby, and you’ll be escorted where we need to go. Start time is 12:00p noon, so if you can maybe be there 5-10 minutes earlier to get settled and allow everyone to get in before we begin the tour, that would be great. Thank you to Cheri for arranging this! Since we will be doing a tour, no alternative Zoom option this week will be provided.

Donna and Jake will host lunch after the tour.

January 8 Meeting

President Jamie presided over this Zoom only meeting. He gave the Thought of the Day by telling this story about President Jimmy Carter, quoting his pastor: “Each time we met President Carter would ask me three questions, where have you been? Who have you helped and how can I help you help them?”

We are no longer meeting at the Paradise Diner, because they have imposed a very high room charge. President Jamie is looking for a new location. Until a new location is found we will have Zoom meetings or field trips.

Announcements

- ❖ Maria Rieger has resigned from the club but will continue

January Is Vocational Service Month

- ❖ January 15 –Tour of Germanna Stafford Location at 10 Center St in Stafford to tour/learn and discuss district grant project
- ❖ January 22 - Speaker: Chris Freeman sharing tips for winterizing your home
- ❖ January 29 – Evening Meeting, Speaker: Meg Bohmke, Chair of the Stafford Co Board of Supervisors
- ❖ February 1 – 9 am -3 pm - Peacebuilding Conference; Keynote Speaker: Michael Collins, Executive Director – Americas Institute for Economics & Peace; Stevenson Ridge – Spotsylvania, VA
- ❖ February 5 _Regular Noon Meeting t.b.a.
- ❖ February 12 – Regular Noon Meeting t.b.a.
- ❖ February 19 - Regular Noon Meeting, Speaker: SCPS Superintendent Dr Daniel W Smith"
- ❖ February 20-22 – RI Peace Conference in Istanbul
- ❖ February 26 – Evening Meeting - Long Markets Young Entrepreneurs Program"
- ❖ June 21-25 – Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta

to help us by working with the artists for Via Colori.

- ❖ Donna reminded us that keeping in touch with current members is as important as recruiting new members. At least two of our members are interested in the satellite club since they have difficulty attending noon meetings. They will be meeting on the 3rd Thursdays at the brewery.

Program

Our speaker was Patrick Longano, co-owner of Dac/db, who demonstrated the Ignite app for Rotary members. He demonstrated how to download the Ignite app on both iPhones and Androids and download the app and demonstrated various features of the app, including communication tools, service project tracking, and administrative functions, while addressing members' questions and concerns.

Patrick discussed the club app and its features, highlighting its ease of communication and new additions since June. He encouraged members to use the app, offering to assist with login and setup. Patrick demonstrated the app's functionality, mentioning experimental features that may concern Rene. When asked about using the finance feature, Stafford indicates they do not currently use it but plan to.

Patrick demonstrated the new features of the club's online platform, including the 'Pay Easy' and 'Foundation' sections. He explained how to use these features, such as transferring Paul Harris fellow points and donating to the Foundation. Stafford clarified that the district is currently trialing the finance module and that it will be available for the club in the future. Donna raised a concern about the 'Pay Easy' feature not being available on her premium model, which Stafford confirmed. Patrick also showed how to find and view a member's contact information in the directory.

Patrick discussed the importance of service self-portraits in showcasing the club's activities and achievements. He encouraged members to wear club-branded items during non-rotary projects and take photos to share on social media. He also highlighted the convenience of using Zoom for communication, including sending service selfies directly to the club president. Furthermore, he demonstrated how to access the district calendar and register for events, emphasizing the ease of adding personal calendars to Zoom.

Donna raised a concern about the absence of her calendar events in the Ignite app, which Jamie clarified was due to the app not using the DAC/ dB calendar. Patrick suggested Donna could set up her Google Calendar to show up on Ignite, and he offered to demonstrate how to do this. Donna also asked about the blue ovals on her calendar, which Patrick explained represented the number of events scheduled for that day. Lastly, Jamie expressed concern about the in-app messaging feature not forwarding to a text, to which Patrick responded that they had to choose one or the other.

Patrick discussed the importance of logging volunteer hours, particularly for non-Rotary projects, and highlighted the ease of doing so using a system. He also emphasized the value of tracking potential members and the ease of sending them

applications. Patrick further explained the features of their CRM, including the ability to change personal data, access club bulletins, and read district news. He also mentioned the availability of district governor lines and access to their digits card.

Patrick discussed the benefits of using the Rotary website, emphasizing its ease of use and the ability to access various resources without additional costs. He highlighted the presence of sponsors, impact partners, and license vendors, encouraging the team to explore these options. Patrick also mentioned the availability of resources for Alzheimer's research and the potential for collaboration with local businesses. Donna raised a question about the visibility of the Rotary resources on her screen, which Patrick addressed by guiding her through the process of navigating the website. The conversation ended with a discussion about the Rotary's RAGS and Fellowships.

Patrick demonstrated an experimental feature of the app, which allows users to create their own service feed, similar to a social media platform. He also showcased the club administration features, including the ability to add a calendar event, a service project, and an easy invoice. Patrick highlighted the new feature of scanning digits cards for attendance, which saves the data back into the system. Stafford requested Patrick's assistance in helping others download and log into the app, to which Patrick agreed.

He also guided Donna on how to access the club administration feature, which she was unable to see on her phone. Patrick offered to assist Donna further and encouraged others to reach out to him if they needed help. Donna shared her idea of using the app to send birthday cards and noted the option to recognize members' anniversaries, including their joining date to Rotary. Patrick expressed his appreciation for this feature, highlighting its convenience in eliminating the need for scrambling for information before presenting.

Patrick demonstrated the features of the new app, including the ability to change settings, change passwords, and integrate with Google Calendar. He encouraged the team to provide feedback on any issues or enhancements they would like to see. President Jamie and iPDG Rene discussed the potential of transitioning to using the app full-time and the benefits of integrating with Google Calendar. Stafford also mentioned plans for live demos in future meetings.

The program ended with discussions on potential future use of the app, integration with other platforms, and plans for live demonstrations in upcoming meetings.



JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Nina Métayer: From Rotary Exchange Student to the World's Best Pastry Chef

*Posted on January 9, 2025 by rotaryservice
Interview by Christophe Courjon for Rotary Mag (France)*

In 2024, Nina Métayer was named the world's best pastry chef at the World's 50 Best Restaurants awards ceremony in Las Vegas, Nevada (USA). Nina, who lives in Paris and works as an entrepreneur and consultant, shared her story with Rotary Mag (Rotary's French regional magazine). She talked about her life-changing experience as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Mexico 20 years ago and how it influenced her career. In the interview, she explains how Rotary's values of service, adaptability, and global connections guided her journey from being a young and uncertain teenager to becoming a famous pastry chef.

When you were 16, what motivated you to spend almost a year away from home?

I had no self-confidence and was bad at languages. I wanted to benefit from an unusual experience and had met a girl in my city – La Rochelle, France – who spoke English very well. I learned that she had spent a year abroad as a Rotary Youth Exchange student, which prompted me to attend an information session about the program. At the meeting, I met a Mexican student who told me a lot about his country, which made me want to go there. Mexico was my first choice, and I was lucky enough to get it. I spoke no Spanish at all and being hyperactive and unable to concentrate in a classroom, I knew that the only way for me to learn a language was to practice it in real life.

Has your year in Mexico had a major influence on your professional future?

It was the best year of my life! It made me who I am today because I had to adapt and work hard. Like many exchange students at the time, I didn't have a cell phone and had to go to a cybercafé to contact my relatives in France. I learned not to get depressed in the face of difficulties, but to overcome them. This experience forged my character, and I integrated so well in Mexico that I wanted to live there. Since it's very difficult to make a good living in this country, I thought about starting a business in the future; since some Mexicans told me that the French are famous for bread and pastries, and since I had met a French couple who had set up a bakery in Mexico, I decided to become an entrepreneur. Back in La Rochelle, I finished high school and obtained a certificate of professional competence in bakery, and then in pastry. My year as a student was therefore decisive for my career choice.

What were the highlights of your long stay abroad?



In 2023, Nina Métayer won the title of World Pastry Chef. The following year, she became the World's Best Pastry Chef.

The families who welcomed me and the people I met were very warm, and I'm still in regular contact with many of them. In fact, I'll soon be attending the wedding of a Mexican woman I met in Puebla. I really appreciated the festive nature of the Mexicans and was invited to several weddings, baptisms, and parties. You could say I had become Mexican! At the end of the school year, I participated in a "bus trip" with other students from different countries and we spent over two weeks visiting other parts of the country.

When you returned to France, did you take part in any Rotary activities?

*As a way of thanking Rotarians for sponsoring my Youth Exchange application, I soon became involved in projects carried out by the three Rotary clubs in La Rochelle. I became a member and then vice president of the Rotaract Club of La Rochelle. Although I'm now working in Paris, I still participate in these clubs' projects, especially by donating cake vouchers for raffles. This year, I participated in the blood drive organized by the Rotarians of La Rochelle by signing my book, *La délicate pâtisserie*, which includes simple recipes (waffles, crepes, etc.) as well as more complex ones that require great precision in texture and gesture.*

What message would you like to send to teenagers wondering about a possible Rotary Youth Exchange year?

The beauty of the Rotary program is that you can start at a very young age. When you're 16, you're discovering the world, whereas when you're 20, you have less to build on. Suddenly, living abroad and in a different culture is difficult, and you're forced to adapt and grow stronger. The absence of exams and grades during my school year in a foreign country gave me a sense of independence and freedom. Free from these constraints, it was easier and more enjoyable to learn the Spanish language and the culture of the local people. Because my year in Mexico helped me to discover myself, I encourage young people to spend a year abroad.

Will you ever be a Rotarian?

I'm sure of it! After a year as a Youth Exchange student and then becoming a Rotaractor, it would be a logical next step. But my work and family schedule doesn't allow me to do that now. Service to others is a value that motivates me.

In 2025, we proudly celebrate 50 years of Rotary Youth Exchange as an official program of Rotary International! This milestone wouldn't be possible without the dedication of countless volunteers who ensure each exchange experience is a success.