

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

January 8, 2025



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

January 8 – Patrick Longano, CEO, Member Minder Pro



Patrick will give a tutorial on the Ignite app. IGNITE by Member Minder Pro, LLC provides ease of use for Rotary and other civic organizations by not only helping manage their organizations, but

by making member engagement more accessible. Members can pay their invoices, make donations, log service hours, add service projects to their calendars, send service selfies and so much more from this simple and clean app. Leaders can communicate one on one or broadcast messages to an entire group. While at events, members can connect with each other by scanning QR codes to save contact information.

December 18 Meeting

President Jamie presided and welcomed Mark's guest Emily. PDG Sandy gave the Thought of the Day: "Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break and all things can be mended. Not with time as they say, but with intention. So, go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you." L.R. Knost

President Jamie inducted Julie Spears into the Rotary Club of Stafford, highlighting her leadership in sustainability and her potential to represent the club in her vocation. Jamie emphasized the club's four-way test and the importance of

Club Calendar

January is Vocational Service Month

- ❖ January 8 – Speaker: Patrick Longano - DACdb Owner/Partner to present an IGNITE App Tutorial "
- ❖ January 15 – Speaker from Germanna 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 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

embodying the principles of service in all aspects of life.

Announcements

- ❖ Volunteers (Jake, Christy, Bill) to help Holly close out Volunteers for the Blind on Saturday from 9am to noon.
- ❖ Members need to RSVP for the Christmas party on Saturday at 5pm and bring a white elephant gift.
- ❖ Members to sign up for the Rotary Foundation training and reception on January 11th.
- ❖ PDG Sandy will send out a link for members to make direct contributions to the Polio Fund.
- ❖ Renee to schedule classification talks for Christy and Julie in February.
- ❖ Andrea (North Stafford Rotary) will hold a kickoff meeting for Via Colori in January. Members need to consider taking on tasks for the Via Colori fundraiser.
- ❖ Jamie expressed concern about some members not paying their dues. The board voted to remove some individuals if they don't pay soon. Jake will be sending out statements for unpaid dues. The board also met recently to discuss the membership roster.
- ❖ IPDG Rene discussed upcoming Rotary club activities and initiatives. The club will host young entrepreneurs at their February evening meeting to connect them with students.

The annual election of officers was the main business of this meeting. Cheri was elected president-elect, Nikki was elected club secretary, and Deborah as treasurer. Kristy will serve as club president for Rotary Year 2025-26. She was elected at the December 2023 annual club meeting.

Donna reported on the membership committee's efforts to follow up with active members and plan a potential satellite club meeting.

Renee updated on the club service committee's work.

Christy discussed the progress of the youth service committee, including the chartering of the 11th scout ship. The conversation ended with Stafford mentioning the need to check in on the Interact Club.

Cheri discussed the upcoming year's plans for community service, including a potential environmental focus and the \$7,000 district grant to work with Stafford County Public School to provide a Clothes Closet to make clean clothes available for students and proper outfits for students going to job interviews. Cheri emphasized the need for members to respond to a survey to determine service opportunities and expressed excitement about the grant's potential impact. Cheri also highlighted the success of the Via Colori fundraiser, which raised \$6,132.18. She urged members to contribute to future fundraisers. She mentioned the need to discuss the distribution of funds with the Historical Society and the need for all club members to participate in the fundraiser.

Donald reported on International Service Projects. He discussed the club's international service projects, particularly those involving water and sanitation in Africa. He highlighted the collaboration with Walter Hughes, who sponsors large global grants, and the Strategic Water Alliance, which has provided clean water to several villages. He also mentioned the importance of the Rotary Foundation in funding these projects. He expressed hope for further progress on these initiatives by the next year.

PDG Sandy reported on our club's support of the Rotary Foundation, highlighting their all-time giving of \$467,277 and their current year-to-date total contributions of \$18,511. She emphasized the club's commitment to giving, with 21 Paul Harris fellows and 60 who have done more than that. She also discussed the Paul Harris Society, where members pledge to give a thousand dollars every year, and the Bequest Society, where individuals pledge to give or have given \$10,000 to the Endowment Fund. She encouraged everyone to contribute, especially those who have not yet given anything. She also mentioned the club's goal of becoming a 100% polio plus, with some of their money directly going to polio eradication efforts.

President Jamie discussed the club's financial situation. He then handed the meeting over to Deborah for the club foundation annual meeting, where they elected the new members of the foundation board, which included Nikki Jackson, Bill Laws, Michael Smith, and Donna Almborg.

January Is Vocational Service Month



Rotary's Vocational Service Month is in January. Vocational service is a core part of Rotary and encourages Rotarians to use their skills and expertise to help their communities. It also promotes high ethical standards in business and professions.

Vocational Service focuses on:

- Adherence to and promotion of the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors, and the public.

- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, not just those that are pursued by Rotarians.

- The contribution of your vocational talents to solving the problems of society and meeting the needs of the community.

During January, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important avenue of Rotary service. Discussions on vocational service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within their communities. Vocational Service Month is an opportunity to begin year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects.

Fun at the Holiday Party

