

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

March 19, 2025



Rotary Club of Stafford  **People of Action**

AREA 4 MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT ROADSHOW

MARCH 26 • 7:00-8:30PM
FREDERICKSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
1016 Caroline St • Fredericksburg
Hosted by: AG Jamie Larounis

Engaging Members • Growing Clubs • Expanding Reach

Workshop open to all Rotarians and Rotaractors!

Light Meal Provided

Which piece are you bringing?

Engaging Members

Growing Clubs

Expanding Reach

Register Now!
rotary7610.org



Rotary 
District 7610

March 12 Meeting

President Jamie presided and gave the Thought of the Day: “When the power of love overcomes the love of power then the world will know peace.”

Program: Stafford County Schools Culinary Program

Culinary Program at Mountain View

Chef Reagan discussed the culinary program at Mountain View High School, which offers national certifications and prepares students for college. He mentioned that the program is competitive and only a portion of students pass the certification. Chef also shared that the program is recognized by universities such as Cornell and Johnson Wells. iPDG Rene shared her son’s experience with the program, highlighting its life-changing impact and the opportunities it opened for him.

Culinary Programs and Event Center Project

Chef discussed the upcoming event center project and the culinary programs at

Mountain View, Stafford High, and Brook Point High School. He mentioned the students' participation in catering division-wide events and their prepared meals for legislators. He also mentioned the Horticulture Club's garden and the students' involvement in composting and selling plants. The club was invited to have lunch in the culinary program's dining room.

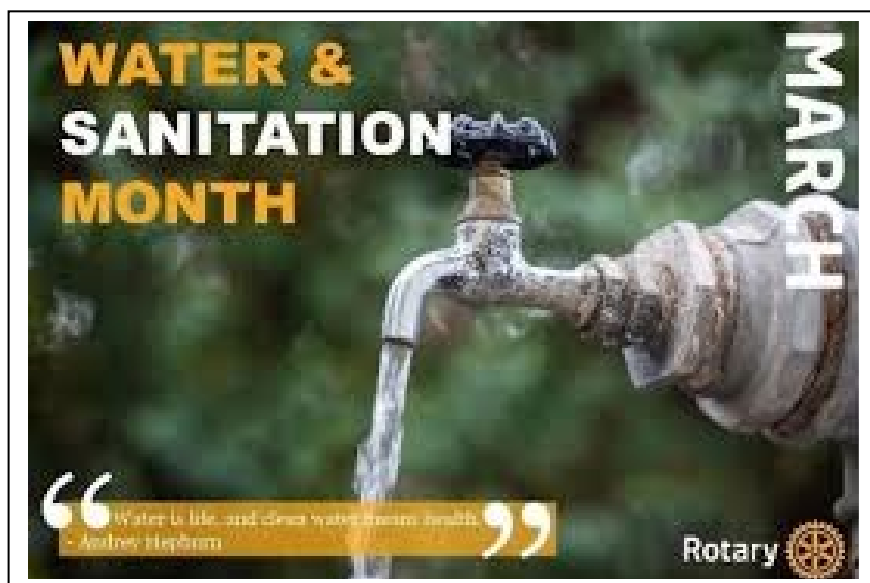
Rotary Event Feedback and New Message

Niki and Kristy discussed their experiences at CPETS. Nikki found the event to be mostly useful for President nominees, with a focus on alternate club options and bridging generational gaps. She appreciated the hands-on and collaborative nature of the discussions. However, she noted that the registration system was not user-friendly. Kristy also found the event beneficial, particularly the President-elect training sessions. Both agreed that the new "Unite for Good" message, which emphasizes unity and green branding, might be a long-term focus for Rotary.

Club Meeting and Announcements

- ❖ Kristy discussed the upcoming CPETS service project and the club's literacy project, focusing on improving early literacy and classroom resources. The group also proposed a new initiative called "Rotary Reads," where Rotarians would partner to support classrooms by providing new books each month. Kristy discussed the idea of giving children a book of their own, focusing on classroom sets for a more significant impact. She also mentioned the possibility of Rotarians delivering these books to classrooms. Kristy proposed a summer reading project, which Nikki had previously suggested.
- ❖ Julie discussed the idea of creating a community garden to support food banks. The group considers potential locations and mentions an existing community garden at Porter Library. Stafford offers to help set up the garden and suggests researching available land.
- ❖ Stafford explained the club's involvement with the Sea Scouts, a scouting unit that needs a community organization as a charter. The club provides financial and legal support, but not a meeting space. The Sea Scouts plan to grow and may recruit adult leaders from the club. The club also discussed potential service opportunities and partnerships with other organizations.
- ❖ Kristy reported that she is preparing for essay and speech contests, though they currently have no entries. She also discussed distributing the donated books from CPETS to schools, with a focus on getting them to students who need them most.
- ❖ Speech Contest - Wednesday March 19 at 5:00p at the Howell Library: Email kfreeman@staffordrotary.org if you can judge.

- ❖ Rotary Leadership Institute - Saturday May 3 in Warrenton:
<https://dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77812343> Our Club will reimburse for this training! If you have not completed all 3 parts of RLI, it's highly suggested you do so! This is especially important for current and future club leaders.
- ❖ Membership Roadshow - Wednesday March 26 at 7:00p at Fredericksburg Baptist Church. This replaces our evening meeting that week and will be a workshop to talk membership strategies and ways we can bring in more Rotarians. This is for ALL Rotarians. Pizza/Salad/Soda will be provided, but you MUST RSVP so we have a headcount for food:
<https://www.IsMyRotaryClub.org/RSVP/Index.cfm?EventID=77817491>
- ❖ Stafford Schools Career Day at Stafford Airport on April 23. We'll be helping SCPS with various duties at the Stafford County Airport including way finding, set up, etc.
- ❖ District Training Assembly: April 26th at the PATH Foundation in Warrenton. Registration isn't open yet, but please keep the date open. This is important for all incoming officers/chairs as this is where you'll receive your position-specific training.
- ❖ The group discussed the budget for purchasing books for schools, estimating around \$8,000 to provide books for approximately half of the 2,500 third-grade students in the district. Kristy will email Deborah, Mike, and others to finalize the budget from the foundation. Michael agrees to review the budget after the call and inform Jamie of the available funds.
- ❖ Donna gave an update on PDG Sandy. She also reported an upcoming new members meeting at Adventure Brewing.



Rotary clubs and districts worldwide recognize March as a time to focus on and celebrate their efforts in providing clean water, sanitation, and promoting hygiene. Rotary members are committed to creating healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities and preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

WASH Projects: Rotary clubs often engage in projects that include building wells, installing rainwater harvesting systems, teaching community members how to maintain infrastructure, and improving sanitation facilities.

Hygiene Education: Rotary also emphasizes the importance of integrating water, sanitation, and hygiene education into their community projects, teaching children about disease transmission and promoting good hygiene practices.

Partnerships: Rotary often partners with organizations like USAID to implement sustainable, long-term projects to improve water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.

Global Impact: Rotary's WASH projects have a significant impact worldwide, with Rotary Foundation investing in over 2,500 water and sanitation projects worldwide.

Sustainability: Rotary focuses on building sustainable water and sanitation systems that communities can develop, fund, and maintain.

Congratulations to Nikki Jackson, Stafford County Public Schools Family & Community Relations Coordinator, for receiving the Better Bandy Award at today's Alvin York Bandy Administrative Complex staff meeting! Nikki's dedication to fostering strong connections between our schools, families, and community is truly inspiring. Well deserved!

