

The Piedmont Rotarian

Rotary District 7690

June 2024

Rotary Fellowship Month



Recruit Peace and Development Leaders for a Rotary Peace Fellowship



Selected fellows receive full funding for a master's degree or postgraduate diploma in disciplines related to peace and development. Our fellows lead peacebuilding efforts worldwide. Rotary members play a key role in recruiting candidates from their communities!

In this edition...

- Farewell Message from Outgoing District Governor Van Lankford
- Message from Membership Chair Jon Spillman
- Message from District Foundation Chair James Gouty
- 80th Anniversary of D-Day
- Mt Airy 75th anniversary



Van Lankford
District
Governor
2023-2024

With Gratitude

As I am writing my last newsletter article today as your District Governor, I am feeling many emotions (all positive) as I reflect on a year that will forever be one of the highlights of my Rotary journey. The one feeling that is dominant is gratitude. Therefore, I want to spend a few moments reflecting on what has been a fantastic year for me.

First, I want to thank the 2020 District Nominating Committee, PDGs Jon Spillman, Claudia Cannady, Randy Perkins, Tommy Rosser, Chris Justice, and Debbie Scott for choosing me to this post. All interviews can be intimidating, but, when you are in a room of people you admire for their devotion to Rotary, the anxiety can be a little more intense. I can still remember the excitement I felt when Jon Spillman called me to say, “Congratulations” as well as the humility I felt with the responsibility I had been given. I want to thank them for trusting me with this duty.

I am grateful to each club President for your work this year, and I want to thank the 47 clubs and six satellite clubs in our district for your very warm welcome as I made my visits this year. This was by far the best part of my year. I so enjoyed traveling the district and observing firsthand the nuances of each club, what makes them unique, and how each club “does” Rotary. I had some great visits and got to meet some great people who I now consider friends. I would not have had this opportunity otherwise. I am grateful for each visit.

I also want to express gratitude to each club who participated in our district Hope Grants. When RI President Gordon McNally challenged my DG class in January of 2023 to “Create Hope in the World” by focusing on peace and mental health awareness, 42 clubs in our district answered the call. I am also grateful to DGE Ron Pierce for presenting our Hope Grant initiative at the Rotary International Convention in Singapore last month

The world now knows that Rotary District 7690 is serious about caring for those with mental health issues and we, hopefully, took away some of the stigma attached to it.

I am grateful to all the Past District Governors whose shoulders I had the opportunity to stand on. As a member of Rotary and this district for over 23 years, I have had the opportunity to learn from many PDGs like Charles Allen, Mike Conrad, Patrick Eakes, Cookie Billings, Phil Morris, the late Dave McCoy and John Haynes as well as the ones mentioned above. I am also grateful for our future District Governors, Ron Pierce, Mark Brandon, and Karen Pollard. The future is bright in D7690 under their leadership. I am grateful to be forever a member of this fraternity of faithful Rotarians who truly strive to further the mission of Rotary.

I am grateful to all the AG’s who I served with this year. I was gratified by the great relationships all of them have with the clubs in their areas. They truly helped me in many ways from getting 100% of our club presidents to PETS in March of 2023 to helping me carry out my goals for our district this year. Thank you AGs for all your support this year.

I am grateful for three people I recognized at the District Conference for their support, help, and encouragement this year. PDG Randy Perkins, my Vice Governor, Cathy Harpster, my Governor’s Aide, and DGND Karen Pollard, my District Conference Chair. Also, add to this group our District Admin, Steve Dolat, who has been a quick study in the role this year. I cannot begin to thank these four people enough for the excellent way they helped me this year. These four dedicated Rotarians did a superb job of helping this DG navigate the “details” of this role, and I am extremely grateful for them. I also want to thank the Executive Committee and each person who took a district leadership role this year. You made this a fantastic year!

Last, but certainly not least, I am grateful to my wife, Ann, for her tremendous support this year. Even though she is not “technically” a Rotarian, there is no doubt that she has the heart of a Rotarian. I have lived with her for 35 years this month and in her life, she truly exemplifies the Four Way Test and service to others. Her love and support this year made all the difference.

Thank you District 7690 for the wonderful opportunity to serve as your District Governor!



FOUNDATION NEWS

James Gouty DRFC

June 2024

FOUNDATION BANQUET FOR NOVEMBER 2024



Rotary International President Elect Stephanie Urchick

In a little over 5 months District 7690 will host Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick at our District Foundation Banquet. The last time District 7690 had a RI President speak at our Foundation Banquet was in 2011, 14 years ago. The banquet is scheduled for November 7, 2024, and will be held at the Koury Center in Greensboro.

The Foundation Banquet Steering Committee is working diligently to plan an outstanding evening for our members and RI President Stephanie. The steering committee is planning for over 700 members and guests that evening.

The committee will make everyone aware when registration is open.

DISTRICT GRANTS

Your district grants team is working to finalize the current year grants and file the final report to Rotary International to close last year's Block Grant. Once that is complete, the team will submit the block grant for next year's grants.

Your patience is appreciated as the leadership works through this.

SUPPORTING THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

We as Rotarians continue to make a difference in the world and in the communities, we live in and serve. We focus on the 7 Areas of Service and do provide life-changing solutions to myriad of issues facing our communities and the world.

I would ask you to remember the work our Foundation does, from large multi club global grants to smaller single club district grants, disaster relief grants, global scholarships, Peace Centers, and the eradication of Polio.

The bottom line is, our Foundation touches the lives of millions of people around the world and in our district and I hope you will join me in supporting this life-changing organization.

CLUB FUNDS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

As this Rotary Year winds down, please make sure your clubs are sending any funds collected to the Rotary Foundation as soon as possible.

Please do not wait until the last week of June to send those funds in as they may not get processed for this Rotary year.

As I have mentioned in several trainings, a club debit/credit card is a great way to pay for your clubs funds to the Rotary Foundation. Processing of payments made with a card are down to days and are much quicker than paying with a check.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

A reminder that I am available to come to your clubs and speak about the Rotary Foundation. My presentation is normally 20 to 25 minutes long and I can tailor it to whatever you believe your club needs to hear.

Just contact me at jggouty@gmail.com to set up a time and date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14, 2024—Fall Foundation Training at Randolph Community College, Asheboro NC
November 7, 2024—District 7690 Foundation Banquet and Paul Harris Society Event at the Koury Center in Greensboro NC. RIPE Stephanie Urchick will be our featured speaker.



Membership Focus
By PDG Jon Spillman
District Membership Chair
2022-2025



Lessons Rotary Can Learn from MTV



Music Television (MTV) was launched on August 1, 1981. The channel, from the start, had a significant impact on the music industry as well as our culture, helping make artists like Madonna, Michael Jackson and Prince global superstars. The initial focus of MTV was to help artists promote their songs visually. The first video aired was, “Video Killed the Radio Star.” Today, MTV has evolved creating TV shows such as “Jersey Shore” and “Teen Mom,” to maintain its relevance.

I mention MTV for two specific reasons. First, like MTV, Rotary must continue to adapt and evolve to remain relevant in our local communities. Two simple ways to add new interest in Rotary:

- 1) Tackle Dynamic Meaningful Service Projects – Whether it is Christmas Tree Lighting in High Point, assisting with the Opioid crisis in Surry County or providing housing assistance to Vietnamese families in Greensboro, clubs that tackle big problems in their community are thriving!
- 2) Create Alternative Club Types and Companion Clubs - This year our clubs are meeting people where they are by forming new companion or satellite clubs. Namely, a Latino club in Alamance County, two Service only Impact Clubs in Guilford County and a Satellite Club at River Landing Retirement Community.

Second, our theme for this year’s **District Membership Summit** is *Rotary Television Awards* (RTV). Attendees this year will receive three key benefits from our RTV Membership Summit on August 22nd:

- 1) Hear directly from club leaders of Top Performing Clubs in Membership Growth as they share their best tips and strategies on how they generated substantial club membership growth in 2023 -2024.
- 2) Experience the 1st RTV Awards at Membership Summit – Break out your 80’s dress wear as we celebrate the success of our clubs in Membership. Awards will be given to all clubs that have growth for 2023 – 2024 Rotary Year. In addition, category awards, including the coveted Membership Cup will be presented to clubs.
- 3) Receive an Hour of Time to Customize your Membership Plan – Participants will have an hour to collaborate with club members, put together plans and obtain feedback from District Leaders.

“You have to change the set, to stay ahead of the curve.” A relevant quote from Carson Daly, former Video Jockey on MTV’s Total Request Live.



D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

REMEMBER & HONOR





Rotary Club of Western Forsyth Invites Veterans to D-Day Remembered Program To remember the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the Rotary Club of Western Forsyth invited John Blust, retired 82nd Airborne, to talk about D-Day and its impact on the outcome of WWII. Mi Pueblo restaurant in Clemmons provided a free lunch for all Veterans who attended. Stephen Geiger opened the program by leading the attendees in singing the National Anthem. Gene Blackwelder followed with an introduction to Rotary, highlighting both international and local projects that Rotary supports. John Blust then proceeded to present the history of how all the different Allied countries came together under General Eisenhower's direction in a massive operation to storm the beaches of Normandy. Their heroism helped change the direction of the war. Multiple TV stations covered the D-Day lunch. It was an honor for the Rotary Club of Western Forsyth to host the Veterans and remember the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

You are cordially
Invited to attend the
75th Anniversary
of
The Rotary Club of Mount Airy

Tuesday, July 16, 2024
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Cross Creek Country Club
1129 Greenhill Road, Mount Airy, NC



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Sylvia Whitlock
The First Woman President of
Any Rotary Club Worldwide

Thank You to our Sponsors



To Purchase Tickets online:
<https://RotaryClubMountAiry75th.eventbrite.com>
\$20.00 plus fee

Rotary District 7690 New Membership Listing

New Members From: **May-14-2024** To: **Jun-17-2024**

36 Members Listed

Member Name	Start Date	Club	Sponsor
Tart, Gregory Chad (CHAD)	06/01/24	Alamance	James A. Cartner
McKendree, Rebecca (REBECCA)	06/01/24	Alamance	William Randy Perkins
Woodle, R. Gene (GENE)	06/04/24	Asheboro	Scott Allen
Mabe, Dennis (DENNIS)	06/04/24	Asheboro	Dale Lambert
Pavoni, Theresa D (THERESA)	06/11/24	Burlington	Mark Podolle
Fossati, Carlos Sr (CARLOS)	05/23/24	Crescent	Shelly Hazlett Daniel Hazlett
Banks, Julie Ann Verschoyle (JULIE BANKS)	06/16/24	Graham	Russell Guy
Holloway, Hurl (HURL)	06/12/24	Greensboro	John F. Rosser Jr.
Parson, Allen (ALLEN)	06/04/24	Guilford (Greensboro)	Herb R Surgeon Jr.
Williams, Raymond (RAYMOND)	05/23/24	Jonesboro	David Grayson Spivey
Lara, Miguel (MIGUEL)	06/05/24	Kernersville	John George Wolfe IV
McGowan , Martin James Jr. (MARTIN)	06/05/24	Kernersville	John George Wolfe IV
Cioce, Valerie F (VALERIE)	06/05/24	Mocksville	Kenneth Wesley Gamble
Wiley, Katherine C (KATIE)	06/05/24	Mocksville	Kenneth Wesley Gamble
Reeves, Charlotte (CHARLOTTE)	05/21/24	Mount Airy	Chris Knopf
Baker, Sabrina Lee (SABRINA)	06/04/24	Mount Airy	Jessica Cockerham
Seigfried, Mary Lou (MARY LOU)	05/14/24	Pinehurst	Clement Jowett
Porritt, Beth (BETH)	06/05/24	Pinehurst	Danna Carter
Wright, Stephanie (STEPHANIE)	05/22/24	Randolph (Asheboro)	Pat B. Hurley
Matthews, Jay (JAY)	05/31/24	Winston-Salem	
Cooper, Asheley (ASHELEY)	05/31/24	Kernersville Evening	Taylor T Mabe
Beausoleil, Valerie (VALERIE)	06/16/24	Mebane	Russell Guy
Diaz Lopez, Saira (SAIRA)	05/25/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Magueyal Vega, Helton Noe (HELTON)	05/27/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Lopes, Melissa (MELISSA)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	Chris Justice
Johnson, Matthew (MATTHEW)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	Billings Kathryn
Absher, Jennifer (JEN ABSHER)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	IMPACT Triad Staff

Member Name	Start Date	Club	Sponsor
Barton, Michael (MICHAEL)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	IMPACT Triad Staff
Batraki, Mona (MONA BATRAKI)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	IMPACT Triad Staff
Barton, Anita (ANITA)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	IMPACT Triad Staff
Lopes, Matthew (MATT LOPES)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	IMPACT Triad Staff
Khalil, Manal (MANAL KHALIL)	05/23/24	Triad Impact	IMPACT Triad Staff

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