

Rotary

District 7280



District Governor's Note

Happy New Year!

Dear Rotary District 7280 Family,

Happy New Year! As we turn the page to 2025, we're reminded that a new year brings fresh opportunities to serve, connect, and grow as a Rotary family. **January is Rotary's Vocational Service Month**—a time to reflect on how our professional skills and ethical practices can contribute to building stronger communities and advancing Rotary's mission.

Vocational Service is truly at the heart of Rotary's identity, as Rotary is a membership organization and each member brings unique talents and expertise. It's about using our talents and expertise to make a difference, whether mentoring a young professional, sharing knowledge at a Rotary meeting, or applying our skills to a service project. This month, I encourage each of you to think about how your vocation can align with our district's efforts to serve others. Perhaps there's a new idea or partnership just waiting to be explored!

As we enter the second half of our Rotary year, I am deeply inspired by the momentum we've built together. From impactful projects to great participation in district events, your commitment to "Celebrate the Magic of Rotary" is evident in everything we've accomplished so far. Let's carry this energy into the months ahead, ensuring that we finish this Rotary year stronger than ever.

In January, let's also resolve to reconnect with one another. Consider attending an upcoming club meeting outside of your own, or reach out to a fellow Rotarian you haven't seen in a while. These small gestures of fellowship strengthen the fabric of our district and remind us of the power of our collective network.

Thank you for your dedication to Rotary and to the betterment of our communities. Together, we have the tools, the drive, and the vision to make 2025 a year of incredible service and success.

In Rotary Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary".

Zachary Covington
District Governor

Dates to Remember - Jan & Feb 2025

January - Vocational Service Month

Happy New Year!!

1/20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/20 - Inauguration Day

February - Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention Month



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District Governor Nominations

Call for Nominations for District 7280 District Governor Nominee 2025-26

To: District 7280 Membership
From: Zachary Covington, District Governor
RE: District Governor Nominee 2025-2026

All District 7280 clubs are invited to submit District Governor Nominee nominations for the 2025 – 2026 Rotary year. The information submitted shall be in the form of a resolution, adopted at a regular meeting of the club. The named candidate must be nominated and approved by a majority of the club members. The resolution shall be certified by the club secretary. A club may suggest a candidate who is a member of another club, so long as the suggesting club first obtains the concurrence of the candidate's club.

Candidates are required to have been a member in good standing for at least seven years and have served a full year as club president. The candidates must agree in writing to have their name submitted.

The club resolution and candidate acceptance letter need to be submitted together and mailed via US Mail to District Governor Zachary Covington, PO Box 580, Clarion, PA 16214 or emailed to District Governor Zachary Covington at zc7280@gmail.com.

In accordance with the District and Rotary International By-Laws, ONLY club-suggested candidates are eligible to challenge the Nominating Committee's Decision.

SAVE THE DATE - PELS

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District Leaders

Zachary S. Covington
District Governor
Aaron Matthew Sines
District Governor-Elect

Rotary
District 7280
District 7305
District 7360



PRESIDENT ELECT LEARNING SEMINAR

INSPIRE

INCOMING PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR FOR INNOVATION, READINESS & ENGAGEMENT

Save the Date!

MARCH 28-30, 2025



The Penn Stater
Hotel & Conference Center



**PRESIDENT-ELECT
LEARNING SEMINARS
are intended for:
President-Elects
Assistant Govenors**

Pictured Left to Right:

Aaron Sines DGE D7280

Dawn Linn DGE D7360

Mário César Martins de Camargo RI - PE

Felicia Mycyk DGE D7305

Mary E. Lord
DG Nominee
Eva Palmer
District
Secretary
Patricia J.
Meehan
District
Treasurer
Ken R Fleeson
District
Membership
Chair
John Marshall
District Rotary
Foundation
Chair
Rebekah E.
Deal
District Public
Image/PR Chair



As we enter the new year, it's time to gear up for one of the most impactful leadership development opportunities for Rotary club leaders: the President-Elect Learning Seminar (PELS). **This year's event will take place March 7-9, 2025, at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA.**

PELS is an essential step for all incoming Rotary club presidents to prepare for their upcoming year of service. It is more than just a training—it's a chance to network, learn, and ignite your passion for Rotary's mission. Through interactive workshops, inspirational speakers, and hands-on sessions, attendees will gain the tools and confidence needed to lead their clubs effectively.

New This Year: Club Emerging Leader Option

This year, we're excited to announce a special opportunity for Club Emerging Leaders to attend PELS! Emerging leaders are those who show potential to take on significant roles within their clubs in the future. By attending, they will gain insight into Rotary leadership, understand the role of the president, and learn strategies to make an impact in their clubs and communities.

The inclusion of emerging leaders in PELS is designed to empower the next generation of Rotary leaders and ensure a strong pipeline of inspired, prepared individuals ready to take on leadership roles in years to come. This track is ideal for members who may not yet be ready to step into the role of president but are eager to grow, learn, and serve in larger capacities.

Why Attend?

Whether you're a President-Elect or an Emerging Leader, PELS offers:

- **In-Depth Training:** Gain practical strategies for running effective meetings, building membership, and leading impactful service projects.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with other Rotary leaders from District 7280, exchange ideas, and build lasting partnerships.
- **Inspiration to Lead:** Discover new ways to energize your club and make Rotary's mission resonate in your community.
- **A Renewed Passion for Service Above Self:** Learn how to inspire others and create a legacy of service and impact.

IF YOUR CLUB HAS NOT ELECTED A PRESIDENT-ELECT, YOU NEED TO DO SO ASAP. THE CURRENT CLUB PRESIDENT WILL GET ALL INFORMATION REGARDING "PELS" IF A P.E. IS NOT LISTED IN DACDB.

IF YOUR CLUB WANTS TO SEND AN EMERGING LEADER, PLEASE REACH OUT TO DGE AARON SO WE CAN GET THEM THE LINK TO REGISTER

DISASTERS DON'T WAIT - ShelterBox January News



Rotary



Disasters Don't Wait



After a dramatic week across the world, we're reminded that disasters don't wait, even at Christmas. With so much going on, here's a brief update on how we are responding to global disasters thanks to your club's ongoing support.

Vanuatu Earthquake

A 7.3 magnitude earthquake has struck Vanuatu, causing significant damage and injuries. Communication lines are down, and aftershocks continue to challenge relief efforts. The Australian government has offered assistance and we are working to understand what more might be needed. We have worked with communities in Vanuatu many times before, including after Cyclone Harold in 2020.

Cyclone Chido

A tropical cyclone made landfall across several countries in southeast Africa over the weekend. Headlines have focused on the French Island of Mayotte, but Mozambique was also hit hard by the storm. Destructive winds of up to 135mph and heavy rain have affected over 170,000 people. We will be responding in Mozambique, carrying out needs assessments through our partner CARE Mozambique. We are likely to support people with thermal blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, woven bags, mosquito nets and solar lights.

Syria

There is still a large amount of uncertainty for the Syrian people following the fall of the Assad regime. We expect our distributions with Bahar Organization to continue soon. And in the northwest of Syria, our winter aid distributions with ReliefAid have now resumed after a brief pause.



While disasters don't wait, neither do we. Thanks to your club's support, we will keep providing the essential aid people need this winter. Everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

Thank you so much for your continued support. You can still become a ShelterBox Bronze or Silver Hero by sending a check for \$1000 or \$3000 made out to **ShelterBox USA**, to David Sturrock, 7954 Franklin

Rd, Evans City, PA. If you note your district and club on the memo line, I'll ensure that it gets credited correctly. Personal or company donations will also contribute to your club hero award if you follow the same instructions.

As always, contact us if you would like us to appear in-person or virtually at a club meeting or event. We hope to see you soon! And if you know anyone who would consider working with us as an ambassador (particularly northern D7280 or eastern D7305) please contact us.

ShelterBox District 7305 and 7280 Ambassadors
Dave & Melanie Sturrock,
724-991-4750, dtsturrock@gmail.com
<https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>

Grove City Interact Helps Raise Funds for Community Food Pantry



The Grove City Interact club, along with the Grove City High School student council, hosted the school's annual benefit concert to help feed the hungry this holiday. The price of admission was one food or monetary donation, which went to Grove City Community Food Pantry, Interact adviser Karyn Senita said.

"We try to do as much as we can to support things right here in our local community," she said. "We've worked to do things for the library, for the food pantry, women's shelters, things like that so we can keep our funds local. Our students have really looked outside of themselves in how they can benefit others.

She said the concert featured Hat Trick, a band made up of Grove City students, and Treebeard Brown, a well-known, local adult band whose members' day jobs are as schoolteachers.

In addition to the performance, Senita said the student council and Interact also organized a raffle basket and a food table that contained refreshments, cookies, dips, hors d'oeuvres and hot chocolate.

She credited Interact President Elle Myford and student council President Thomas Hicks, also a member of Interact, for the work they put into organizing the event.

SRU Rotaract Partners with SRU Basketball Club

SRU Rotaract recently partnered with the SRU Basketball Club and did a fundraiser. The event involved putting together a 3v3 basketball tournament that is going to help the SRU Basketball Club financially as well as another group in the community. The picture highlights a few of the members. Starting on the left James Blausler, Alaina Pegano, Krislyn Green (President), Noah Warren (Vice President), Rylan Strauser (Secretary), and Alyssa Wolf.



New Castle Interact Club Has GROWN! and Has Done Amazing Work

The Neshannock High School Rotary Interact students have been very busy since school started. We are associated with New Castle Club #89

We started with 10 students this year and have already grown to 24. Word spreads fast that we are a service group and that we have superb mentors in the Club #89.



Blanket drive - 250 collected for United Way and local Nursing homes



United Way Day of Caring 2024



Rotary lunch with WWII Veteran



US Air Force Leadership Day



Dallas Cowboys character Playbook Series -Salute to Service live presentation with learning support students



SOctober collection. Collected 1300 pair new socks for local agencies and district families



Veteran flag removal at local cemeteries



Salvation Army Red Kettle bell ringing

Hermitage Partners with Local Salvation Army



Hermitage Rotary Club has a long history of partnering with the local Salvation Army. This holiday season, club members helped families shop for warm winter coats, boots, and accessories as part of our district grant.

Plus, we did a day of bell ringing for the Red Kettle Drive and helped sort toys for the Angel Tree program.

We are honored to have two of our club members also serve on the Salvation Army Board.

Here's to a warm and blessed winter season to the Shenango Valley.

Portersville Prospect Luminary Displays

The Rotary club of Portersville Prospect had a very busy December. We started with our Luminary`s. We put 300 out in Prospect and 300 in Portersville every year. We get together and put a block of wood to hold the candle, then the candle in a white bag. Then on Christmas Eve we put them out and light them.



Bradford Participates in Operation Warm



Rotary Club of Bradford

More than 156 local children received brand new coats from Rotary Club of Bradford's participation in Operation Warm.

More than 156 children in the Bradford Area School District, in local Head Start classrooms and through CARE for Children's Early Intervention program, received brand-new coats from the Rotary Club of Bradford. The project was supported by proceeds from the annual Rotary Golf Tournament, the Blaisdell Foundation and a matching grant from Rotary District 7280.

Cranberry Twp. - Sunrise Spreads Smiles at Santa Event

Some highlights, including many ear-to-ear smiles from Sensory Santa. The Rotary Club of Cranberry Township - Sunrise, in conjunction with Cranberry Township and InToto Community Resource, turned a cold day into a heartwarming special event for many community families. Special thanks to Millie's for the sweet treats!



Cranberry Twp Sunrise Students of the Month

Congratulations to the Rotary Student of the Month for November (Reagan Carrico) and December (Kingston Obey).

The Sunrise Rotary Club has been honoring the Student of the Month since 2008.

The Student of the Month program recognizes exemplary students who demonstrate kindness, respect, support of their fellow students, and commitment to their school.

Congratulations to Reagan and Kingston for being recognized as an exemplary student and classmate.



Rich-Mar 2024 Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

In partnership with North Hills Community Outreach, Rich Mar Rotary continued its long tradition of ringing bells for an entire day outside the Gibsonia Walmart. Overall, fifteen volunteers (including Rich Mar Rotarians, Rich Mar Rotary Satellite Club, as well as friends and family of Rotary) rang the bells in two-hour shifts from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm. Although the real feel like temperature likely never made it past 20 degrees, you could feel the warmth of the Gibsonia community as they filled five kettles supporting those in need within the North Hills. For those of you who volunteered, thank you! For those who couldn't make it this year, we hope you will consider helping next year!



Rich-Mar Satellite Club Collects Food for North Hills Cares

Satellite Club members collected food in several neighborhoods as well as with Wabtec Corporation and Mike's Beer Bar/North Shore Tavern. The food is for [North Hills Cares](#) and was delivered on Friday December 6th for their [Community of Music fundraiser](#). It was be arrayed around Santa's Sleigh at The Block at Northway, hopefully to encourage others to donate food for their cause as well.



New Castle & Apple Dumplings....

Lockley school students in Dr. Bucci's 2nd grade class were presented with an opportunity to study the book Andy and Elmer's Great Apple Dumpling Adventure.

Andy and Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure is a children's book that was written by a Rotarian. It starts out as a simple baking project that quickly turns into a major business adventure for Andy. Andy learns the value of truthfulness, fairness, goodwill and partnerships that benefit everyone involved. The book brings out the Rotary values in a fun way for children.

The second-grade classroom teacher with the help of 2 student teachers from Slippery Rock University read the book to the students twice and discussed the values that the book outlines. They did an art project based on the book. They made a poster of an apple tree with "good Apple" traits written on each apple on the tree. They then set up a store where some of the students sold the apple dumplings, apple sauce, apple lollipops and apple juice to the students. Each child was given paper money and had to determine which items in what quantity they wanted to buy. This brought in math and some basic economics. After the sale, the vendors then had to pay the orchard owner, the truck driver and the baker, bringing in some business education.

This was a student/parent activity. Parents assisted the students in determining their purchases. The school secretary baked the apple dumplings and everyone was able to share in this delicious treat!!! Rotarians also enjoyed attending the event.



New Castle Remembers Members with Peace Pole

New Castle Rotary Club members planted a tree and erected a peace pole in memory of club members who have passed away. The New Castle group was the 89th club established and has been active since 1913. The New Castle Rotary Club is recognized as a Peacebuilder club.

New Castle Rotary members Barb Bernardi, Heather Armstrong, Rocco Favorite and Kathy Graziani stand near the recently erected peace tree and pole.



New Castle Provides City Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Meal Boxes

New Castle Club members enjoyed helping the City Rescue Mission sort donations of food and assemble Thanksgiving meal boxes.



New Castle Club Holiday Dinner

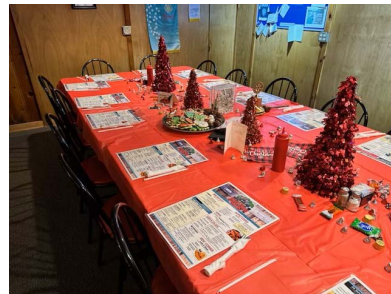
The New Castle club held a holiday dinner at the Confluence in downtown New Castle. Club and family members enjoyed great food and fellowship.



Christmas Surprise for Mount Jewett Club

The Mount Jewett Rotary Club meets at the Barrel House Restaurant every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. At our last meeting before our two-week Christmas and New Year's break, one of our regular waitresses (Pam) surprised us as our tables were fully decorated with Christmas plates, napkins, tablecloths and decorations. In addition, she and her young son Montana made a large variety of Christmas cookies for our dessert. She even had holiday take-home bags for the left-over cookies. Thank you, Pam and Montana, for making our meeting extra special.

Pictured: Pam (waitress) along with Rotarian Jeff Swanson and President Deb Myers



Butler AM 9th Annual "Carved in Ice"

Butler AM Rotary

Proudly presents the 9th Annual **2025**
CARVED IN ICE

Proceeds help support Butler AM Rotary Charities Annual Giving Fund and Ellen's House thru the Ellen O'Brien Gaiser Center.



Location – Diamond Park & Main Street in Butler

"Lights on the Ice"

Friday Feb. 21 • 5PM-8PM

- ✔ LIGHTS - on the ice will make it a festive night.
- ✔ CAMERA - and phone pictures can capture the sights.
- ✔ ACTION - watch as carvers create amazing art out of ice.
- ✔ ENJOY - adult beverages, food vendors and entertainment.

"Family Fun Saturday"

Saturday Feb. 22 • 11AM-4PM

- ✔ Live Carving of Ice Sculptures including the popular Ice Slide
- ✔ Many Kids Activities at Holly Pointe Building
- ✔ Music, Entertainment, and Food Trucks
- ✔ Chili Cook-Off contest at the Art Center
- ✔ Hot Dog Eating Contest at Sons of Italy
- ✔ Carved in "Icing" Sweets Battle at the Art Center

Showcase Your Business in ICE!

- BUY AN ICE SCULPTURE
- SHARE THE COST of a design with one or more local businesses!
- SPONSOR a large ice design
- DONATE to the event for charity

Choose a design to reflect your business or interests. Your business name and logo will appear on a sign beside the sculpture.

Event Sponsorship Opportunities

FAMILY FUN SATURDAY - \$5000*

Sponsor our main event and reach thousands who attend! We will announce your company as sponsor, and your 7-block sculpture will be carved Saturday morning. Included are on-site announcements of the sponsorship and signage. An outdoor table with tent is available if wanted for marketing.

FRIDAY NIGHT IN LIGHTS - \$5000*

Be the evening sponsor for our ice light up night! This includes your 7-block ice sculpture carved that evening, signage, and on-site announcements of the sponsorship. An outdoor table with tent is available if wanted for marketing.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES - \$3000*

Children and their parents love these Saturday activities at Holly Pointe! You can have a table inside the door to provide marketing items and business information. Your 5-block sculpture will be carved that morning.

*For all of the above, Butler AM Rotary website will have your company logo and link to your website for the entire year as a featured sponsor. Two custom Facebook posts about your sponsorship and link to company website.

Butler AM Rotary 2025

CARVED IN ICE

BUY AN ICE SCULPTURE OR TWO OR THREE - \$500

One ice block is \$500 and additional blocks are \$450 each. Each block will be an individual design. Your company name and logo will be on a sign next to the sculpture(s). All 1-block sculptures will be created prior to the event. Company logos, custom designs, or snowfall (white designs/words on the sculpture) are an additional \$150. Unicorn sculpture on right is an example of 10x20x40 one-block design. More blocks increase your impact!



ICE SLIDE SPONSOR – multiples of \$250 for each business

Kids love our most popular ice design with 12 blocks. Your business can share the cost with others. Your donation size determines your name placement on the large sign.

SHARED ICE IS NICE - \$100 or more

Join with one or more other businesses to buy any size sculpture by donating in increments of \$100 or more. Your business name will appear on the signage. We can connect you with another business/organization to share.

LARGE SCULPTURE SPONSOR - \$2,500

Choose a 5-block design with Large Sign. Your company Logo on the Butler AM Rotary's website for the entire year as a featured sponsor. 1 Custom Facebook Posts about this sponsorship.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT YOUR SCULPTURE

Friday weather conditions may prevent the display of your sculpture for the evening. Sculptures of 5 or more blocks are created on-site at the event for the public to enjoy. There is no guarantee when large sculptures will be carved.

Please Indicate your purchase below:

- ___ Family Fun Saturday - \$5,000
- ___ Friday Night in Lights - \$5,000
- ___ Children's Activities - \$3,000
- ___ Large Sculpture Sponsor - \$2,500
- ___ Ice Sculpture - \$500 (\$450 ea. add'l ___ No. of blocks
- ___ Slide Sponsor (multiples of \$250)
- ___ Shared Ice Is Nice (multiples of \$100)
- ___ DONATION

Make Checks Payable to "Butler AM Rotary Charities." Please complete and mail this form with your check to: Butler AM Rotary, PO Box 2434, Butler, PA 16003-2434

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

I want to pay by credit card (include e-mail below to receive Square Invoice.)

Please list name to be used in advertising materials. Indicate exactly how it should appear including capitalization and abbreviations.

Company _____

Contact Name _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Questions? Contact Peggy Weckerly at 724-991-2212 or visit www.ButlerAMRotary.com.

Butler AM Rotary Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization whose Federal Tax ID is 65-2671084. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution unless specifically noted.

*Butler AM Rotary is not responsible for any damage to ice carvings once displayed.

All sponsorships are due by January 13, 2025 and ice block sales by January 20, 2025.

Visit ButlerAMRotary.com or call 724-991-2212 for more information.

Grove City Fundraiser - BINGO!

Grove City Rotary FUNDRAISER

SUPER BINGO!

\$6,500 IN CASH PRIZES

Feb 22

Grove City
Masonic Lodge

Doors open **11 am**
Games start **1 pm**

(Food available)

WITH JACKPOT OF \$1,000

sponsored by Thomas Construction

Tickets \$40

pre-sale, limited seating

Purchase locations:

Ralph Family Insurance
Mercer County State Bank
in Grove City

or ask any Rotarian!

For info call 724-748-5885

A Night at the Races - February 2025



2025 Mercer Rotary Derby A Night at the Races

Saturday, February 22, 2025

East End Firehouse Community Center • 104 Wilson Ave, Mercer, PA

Doors Open @ 5pm • Races Begin @ 6pm

Entrance Fee = \$25.00

Includes access to betting windows for all 11 races along with food buffet & beverage
Place \$2 cash-only bet on your favorite horse to win

Chinese Auction

25 Tickets available for \$20

Buy a Horse = \$20/horse

Horse owner receives \$40.00 if horse wins race

Pre-Race Day sales only - Buy your horse by February 14, 2025

Sponsor A Race = \$100.00

Sponsor name on racing form, sponsor announced during race

Pre-Race Day sales only - Reserve sponsorship by February 14, 2025

Event Sponsorship - Gold = \$300.00

Gold sponsor name placed on all advertisements & banners and announced throughout the event

Event Sponsorship - Silver = \$200.00

Silver sponsor name placed on all banners and announced throughout the event

**All proceeds from Derby Event provide Mercer Rotary Club Community Service projects
benefiting the local community**

For more information call
Kathie @ 623-225-8561

All donations gratefully accepted

Buy a horse, sponsor a race or sponsor the derby by February 14, 2025 by contacting a Rotary member
Cash or check only

Smethport Designer Purse Bingo

SMETHPORT ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS



Designer Purse

B • I • N • G • O

Coach • Kate Spade • Vera Bradley • Michael Kors & MORE!

February 16, 2025 | 2PM

Court of Angels Banquet Hall

Doors open at 12:30 | Cost: \$30

16 Games • Basket Raffles

Purses & Bags - Watch out for Mystery Cash!

WINNER OF EACH BINGO GAME WINS A PURSE

Opportunity to buy additional bingo cards for each game

Light Snacks will be provided

Adult Refreshments, Soda and Water will be available for purchase

TICKET MUST BE PRESENTED FOR ADMISSION

License #BNG07356

030

CONTACT FOR TICKETS:

Troy Herzog

505 W. Main St.
Smethport, PA 16749

814-558-6113

troyherzog@hotmail.com