



District Governor's Note

Zachary Covington, District Governor 2024-25

September 2024

Dear Rotary District 7280 Family,

As summer begins to transition to fall, Iâ€™m filled with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement for the months ahead! September is a great time for reflection and planning, as we continue to gear up for the impactful work that lies ahead in this Rotary year.

This month, our Rotary focus turns to Basic Education and Literacy, one of Rotaryâ€™s seven Areas of Focus. I believe education is a fundamental human right upon which communities grow and thrive, and through literacy we empower individuals to achieve their fullest potential. District 7280 is home to many projects that champion this cause, and I encourage each club to explore opportunities to contribute, whether through supporting local schools, providing resources to underserved populations, or fostering a love of reading in the youngest members of our society.

September also provides opportunities to participate in Peacebuilding projects. Patriot Day (September 11) and International Day of Peace (September 21) are both initiatives your club may participate in as a way to embrace another one of Rotaryâ€™s Areas of Focus, Peace and Conflict Resolution. Regardless of how you choose to support these initiatives, may you reflect the spirit of Rotary, celebrating your dedication and creativity, and knowing you are making a tangible difference! Itâ€™s this collective effort that makes our District strong and vibrant, and encourages us to CELEBRATE ROTARY!

As we continue to move forward, letâ€™s continue to embrace the presidential theme of celebrating the MAGIC OF ROTARY. Each of us has the power to create change, and together our impact is truly magical!

I look forward to seeing you at my upcoming official club visit to your Area. Please be sure your calendars are marked for that date, time, & location. If you do not yet have the date on your calendar, please consult with your Club President or Area Governor for the details.

Youâ€™re doing incredible work in your communities, and I continue to be amazed and feel honored to serve as your DG. Keep the invitations coming for your eventsâ€”if I can be there, I certainly will be! Letâ€™s continue to inspire, lead, and challenge ourselves to think bigger. Letâ€™s make this month another testament to the power of Rotary!

In Rotary Service,

Zachary Covington
District Governor
Rotary District 7280



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Dates to Remember - Sept & Oct

September - Basic Education & Literacy Month

9/2 Labor Day

9/11 Patriot Day

9/21 International Day of Peace

**District Governor Award #36 - Complete at least one Peacebuilding Project during the month of September 2024

October - Community & Economic Development Month

DG Official Visits Start - Check for dates with your President or Area Governor

10/22-27 Zone 33/34 Impact Summit

10/24 World Polio Day

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District Leaders

Zachary S. Covington
District Governor

Aaron Matthew Sines
District Governor-Elect

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

Rotary Promotes Peace Around the World

Rotary promotes PEACE around the world!



May Peace Prevail On Earth

What is a Peace Pole?

A Peace Pole is an internationally-recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family, standing vigil in silent prayer for peace on earth. Each Peace Pole bears the message **May Peace Prevail on Earth** in different languages on each of its four sides. There are estimated over 250,000 Peace Poles in every country in the world dedicated as monuments to peace

International History

The Universal Message for World Peace was authored in 1955 by the late Masahisa Goi of Japan. Goi was inspired to write the message after World War II and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. **Read the full story at worldpeace.org/history/**

JOIN THE WORLD WIDE NETWORK OF PEACE MAKERS



September 21st is The International Day of PEACE
What will you do to promote Peace?

As suggested by District Governor, Zach Covington:

- Become a Peacebuilder Club
- Donate several children's books about **Peace** to a school or library near you from a local new/used bookstore or from your favorite online store like these ones we found!
- Dedicate a Peace Pole in your community in the coming weeks/months.



Ask me about personalized "**People of Action**" promotions!

FOR MORE INFO TO PURCHASE A LOCAL PEACE POLE

Contact Darla Motta text 724-458-8822 / Motta8822@gmail.com

Peace Graphics only \$75 or \$195 for a complete PEACE POLE - ready to install (includes ground anchor and solar light cap)



ROVA 2024 - Nov 3 & 4

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

We are excited to announce that the 2024 Rotary District Conference (ROVA) will be held on November 3rd and 4th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. The theme for this year's conference is "Empowering Our Future". We are proud to have you as a member of our district and look forward to seeing you at the conference. The conference will feature a variety of activities, including keynote speeches, networking opportunities, and educational sessions. We encourage all Rotarians to attend and make the most of this opportunity. For more information, please contact your district governor or the conference organizers. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable conference!

we are excited to offer the ROVA Program in 2024. The 18th Rotary Outstanding Vocational Award (ROVA) retreat which will be held on Sunday, November 3 and Monday, November 4, 2024. We are excited to once again be at Camp Nazareth Retreat & Conference Center in Mercer.

The cost is \$160 per student. The cost of the chaperons is covered by the student fee of \$160. Please send your registration and the number of students you wish to sponsor to this address:

John Marshall, Foundation Committee Chair
Rotary District 7280 Governor 2023-2024
Glasgow Rd., Valencia PA 16059

Please send the registration money and number of students to be sponsored to John no later than Friday, October 11, 2024. All checks are made payable to "District 7280". Here is a link to the registration form: [ROVA registration](#)

We need to know the number of students so that supplies can be ordered. Once you have determined how many students you are willing to sponsor, I am asking you to contact your VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR and let them know your number. They will then begin the selection process for the students. If the school cannot find enough students for your club, your money will be refunded. However, you may wish to instruct the school to select a student, in that case, from another community. Remember, not all communities have Rotary clubs; if there is no Rotary club, students from that area are not eligible. If a student is registered and simply does not "show up", the registration money cannot be returned since food and supplies have already been ordered.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached at any of the following: 814-226-9161 (work); 814-229-2709 (cell), and by email at tracy@clarionpa.com.

We are excited to offer this program as the vocational students, counselors, chaperons and directors have enjoyed the program and found it a rewarding experience.

Regards,
Tracy J. Becker, ROVA Coordinator

Is your club looking for a worthy international project?

There is still time to partner with the Keystone Rotary Club and become a sponsor!
They are in the final days of trying to meet their goal. Can you help them?

DUCK DERBY '24
September 12 | 2 PM EST
Contact: KeystoneRotaryConnects@gmail.com
Every dollar raised will be used for humanitarian aide and projects within Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus.

GET YOUR TICKETS
Participate Support Win
Personalized gifts for top 3 Sponsor Race Winners and dozens of prizes for individual Race Winners

Keystone Rotary
@Keystone-Rotary
venmo

Derby Sponsors receive 70 individual ducks AND 1 large duck
Lake Sponsors receive choice of 70 individual OR 1 large duck

SUPPORTING:
Children/Families in Ukraine and projects all around the world!

TICKETS
1 = \$5
6 = \$25
25 = \$100

Derby Sponsor \$500
Lake Sponsor \$250

Keystone Rotary International E-Club

Nutritional Center in Patzun Guatemala



One of PDG John Marshall's District Governor projects was to support the nutritional center at the orphanage in Patzun Guatemala. Last July, John



traveled to Guatemala to share the awesome news with the orphanage that a total of \$10,000 had been raised! The POWER OF ROTARY!

Pajamas and sweatpants were distributed to the orphans, and they were so happy to have new clothes that they didn't have

to share with the others anymore. They had a pizza party and John taught them how to make pizza, even the nuns!

Afterward, the children and the nuns created a program to give thanks for helping them in the nutritional center. It was a very special and heartwarming event.

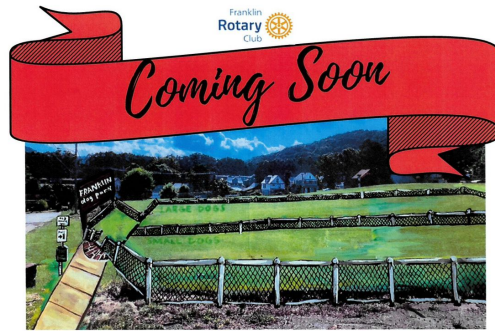


Cranberry Township Sunrise Rotary Club 2nd Annual Craft Ale and Vine Garden

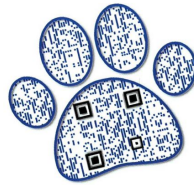
We filled the garden at the Sunrise Rotary Craft Ale and Vine Garden at Cranberry Township Community Days! Members from the Cranberry Township Sunrise Rotary club hosted the fundraiser during community days. Beer from [Full Pint Beer](#) and wine from [Narcisi Winery](#) were served. We are grateful for our partnership with Cranberry Township and the Cranberry Township Community Chest.



Dog Park Coming to Franklin



Franklin DOG PARK



Your support matters!
Scan the QR Code to make your tax deductible donation!

Kosovo Friendship Exchange



DISTRICT 7280 KEYSTONE ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

We are very excited to share that we have a team of 18



Rotarians connected with our International E-Club that are **scheduled to visit Kosovo and Albania in October!**

The Keystone Rotary Club, originally chartered in District 7280 with members from the USA and Kosovo, continues to grow, adding members and projects from all over the world. We have members in our club that are Traditional, Associate and Rotaract Members in 9 different states in the USA and represent more than a dozen countries around the world!

Consider visiting one of our fun and interactive meetings or INVITE US to visit your club to present a program, either in person, via zoom, or both! Allow us to share more about our plans to attend Rotary's International Convention in Calgary with a booth in the House of Friendship again this year, and to share our hopes for future travel with projects and friendship exchanges!

We need your help - it is our hope to take our Keystone International ROTARACT President (from Tanzania) and Vice President (from Ghana) along to learn and share on this Friendship Exchange. To accomplish this, we must raise \$4,000 to fully fund their travel and expenses. **Make a pledge before Sept. 13, and your donation will be matched by a kind and generous Rotarian, dollar for dollar!**

Please **take a minute to read Kelvin's letter and consider making a personal or club pledge of any amount to help!**



Kelvin

I am Kelvin Haukila, passionately expressing my keen interest in the Kosovo friendship exchange organized by Rotary. My Rotary journey began in August 2021 when I joined the Keystone Rotaract e-Club. Since then, I've served as the club's Vice President until April 6th, 2024, currently, I hold the position of Club President. **This journey has allowed me to witness the remarkable impact Rotarians have in making the world a better place.**

As a Rotaractor, I have honed my leadership skills, coordinated events, and mentored future leaders. Under my leadership, our club has grown to 15 members from different parts of the world, all committed to making a positive impact in our society. With support from the Keystone Rotary Club District 7280, we have successfully designed and executed various projects in different countries.

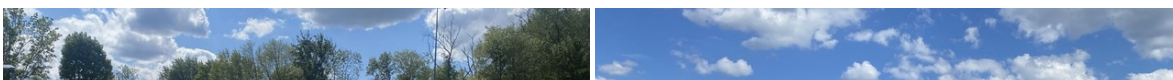
In my local community, I mentor the Rotaract Club of KCMC District 9214, empowering and guiding medical students to address health challenges. The club has established one of the largest medical camps in Tanzania, the Rotary Family Health Days, serving over 3,000 underprivileged people yearly and it is primarily run by young volunteers. **As a physiotherapist, I am particularly drawn to Rotary's focus on disease prevention and treatment.** I believe good health is the foundation of a fulfilling and productive life. Since completing my degree, I have been working on innovative solutions to reduce the burden of diabetes, hypertension, and their related complications. Together with my team, we have designed a self-management program to empower and support patients beyond hospital visits, aiming for effective disease control. Our program, Afya Pamoja, funded by the Keystone Rotary Club, has increased awareness and screening in the community, serving over 600 people in the Kilimanjaro region.

I am dedicated to employing diverse leadership skills and innovative approaches to contribute to impactful community initiatives. The core values and areas of focus of Rotary align seamlessly with my passion for addressing pressing societal issues. Post-exchange program, I aspire to integrate life skills, cross-cultural understandings, and the global network with my passion to inspire the younger generation to pursue their passions and commit to community transformation. ***This exchange program will fortify my collaborative skills with Rotarians, enabling me to tackle global health challenges, explore novel topics in human health, and ultimately make a meaningful impact, particularly in the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs).***

Please help us fully fund Kelvin's travel from Tanzania to Kosovo by making a pledge to KeystoneRotaryConnects@gmail.com or by visiting KeystoneRotaryClub.org

Rich-Mar Supports Richland Community Day

During August, we had a notable presence at the Richland Township Community Day, displaying Shelter Box and promoting the virtues of Rotary. We also sponsored a golf cart to transport people to and from the parking area. Thanks to Jim Long for spearheading this event and to volunteers from the Club and Satellite (and the Sturrocks for the use of the Shelter Box tent). Our visibility in the community continues to increase!






Rich-Mar Supports the Mars Area Library

Summer Reading Closing Party

Friday August 9th @ 12pm
at Adams Township Community Park

Be prepared to get wet, thanks to the generous donation from the Rotary Club of Rich-Mar who have allowed us to add a foam party to celebrate the end of summer reading!





Summer Reading Closing Party!

Friday August 9th at 12:00pm
at Adams Township Community Park,
Rotary Pavilion

You finally made it to the end of the Summer Reading Program! Come celebrate with us at the park where we'll have fun activities, treats and say goodbye to summer! Including a foam party, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Rich-Mar!

Sponsored By:

Rotary Club of Rich-Mar (Valencia)



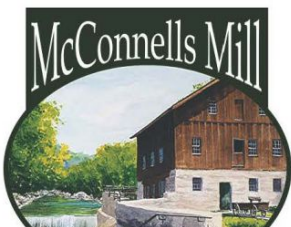
Rich-Mar Celebrates RYLA & Scholarship Awardees

Congratulations to our RYLA attendees and Scholarship winners pictured below with their parents after lunch on July 17th





**Portersville-Prospect Club sponsors
McConnells Mill Heritage Festival**



Rotary 
Club of Portersville-Prospect

McConnells



**September 28
& 29, 2024**

Festival Hours
Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday 11:00am - 5:00pm

**McConnells Mill
State Park**

2697 McConnells Mill Road
Portersville, PA 16051



**Free admission and
free parking!**

Information:
jebutler59@zoominternet.net



McConnells Mill Heritage Festival



Photos by Charlene Reinhart

History comes alive at the 31st Annual McConnells Mill Heritage Festival, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Portersville-Prospect.

Come celebrate the historic time period of 1852-1928, when the gristmill harnessed the power of the Slippery Rock Creek to grind the wheat for bread. Tour the mill with its original machinery, visit a Civil War encampment, participate in art and craft demonstrations, and enjoy Bluegrass and Celtic music.

Artists and craftspeople from the local area demonstrate their skills and have their wares for sale. And family activities bring history to life.

Ghosts & Giggles Fundraiser



GAMES OF CHANCE!

ANDY BENINGO

KATE BRINDLE

DAVID KAYE
AS 'THE HOST'

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

\$40⁰⁰ Gen Admission • \$65⁰⁰ VIP Table Seating & Early Admission
\$500⁰⁰ VIP Table of 8 Seats

Admission Includes Appetizers & Movie Theater Snacks!
No Outside Food or Beverages

Cash Bar • Guests 21 & Over • Costumes Welcome

VIP Doors 5:30pm • Gen Adm Doors 6:00pm • Show: 7:00pm

Gen Admission Tickets on Sale at
CARE CHIROPRACTIC
 837 Evans City Rd - Renfrew

CLICK IT TICKET



Purchase Tickets Online at
<https://ci.ovationtix.com/36412/production/1211465>
 Or Call 412-920-5653 service charge applies
 Offensive or political language / attire prohibited

PENN the penn theater
 149 north main street - butler, pa 16001

ShelterBox Tents Arrive in Gaza



ShelterBox has been busy. Following the devastation left by Hurricane Beryl in Granada, our team has now completed distribution of dome tents and other essential items like mosquito nets, solar lights, and kitchen sets to people on the island of Petite Martinique. And distributions are

Carriacou.

Over 1,100 tents have reached families in Gaza, with more tents on the way. For people who've had no choice but to

Sleeping out in the open or in overcrowded buildings, these tents make a world of difference. Items like tarpaulins, water carriers, mattresses, and blankets have also been delivered to thousands of people.

Do you want to inspire your club or community?

We are anxious to present to your club or display at a local event. We have lots of things to share about what's new in ShelterBox. Just let us know.

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



Shine for ShelterBox - November 14th

Our fall fundraising is an important part of what makes the aid above possible. On Thursday evening, November 14th, we will be holding a multidistrict event at Stables at Connoquenessing. This will expand on the live event held the last 3 years and also leverage the national virtual event Evening to Experience ShelterBox. We will have a social hour with drinks and hors d'oeuvres where you can network with other rotary clubs, and we will have celebrity speakers and prize giveaways. We hope to get more people involved, raise even more money, and have even more fun!

This event provides a great opportunity to achieve or renew your FY24-25 ShelterBox Hero award with a total pledge by your club and members of \$1000 or more. Clubs who do so before November 14th will be recognized and receive special perks at the event, as well as be recognized at subsequent district events during the year.

14th Annual Ellwood City Oktoberfest

Ellwood City, PA August 22, 2024: Ellwood City may not be Bavaria, but it does have its version of Oktoberfest. The 14th Annual Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 5th from 12pm to 5pm in Ewing Park, rain or shine. \$30 presell or \$35 at the door, attendees will be oompah-pah-ing for the abundance of food and beer samples.

Thanks to the talented local brewers and Pete's Uptown Beer and Beverage, located at 1022 Lawrence Avenue, Ellwood City, for providing a bounty of beers. Small samples will be served in 3 oz. plastic cups. Homebrewers will share their specialties and over 100 varieties of craft beers are available. The food on hand is a combination of traditional German, Italian favorites and local specialties. Sauerkraut and sausage, meatball and sausage sliders, pepperoni puffs, fish, haluski, hot dogs and french fries, and don't forget the beer cheese for your pretzel are among the offerings. You won't go away hungry!

Oktoberfest is made possible through a partnership of three community organizations. The Wolves Club, Rotary Club of Ellwood City and Ellwood City Lions Club raise monies to support their various projects and



services, such as High School Scholarships, Welcome to Ellwood Signage, the annual holiday parades, After Prom and many others.

Every year, the Oktoberfest Committee, which is made up of members of each club, dedicates a portion of the prepaid tickets to a local organization. This year's beneficiary is All Aboard Ellwood. www.allaboardellwood.com. The mission of All Aboard Ellwood Inc. is to create a facility in Ellwood City that will honor the role that the railroad and local industry played in the development of our area.

An Oktoberfest must-have is music. The Wrangler Band will be performing at the Folino Shelter from 1pm to 4pm. The band plays a variety of music, ranging from today's top-of-the-charts modern country hits to yesterday's classic 80s rock.

Besides Brews and Food, you don't want to miss out on the Silent Auction and Raffle Baskets. Once again, Bryan Downs, Pete's Uptown owner, has procured a variety of items for the silent auction, including Flat Screen TVs, Roomba, Solo Stove, Dewalt generator, Coleman Grill and Corn Hole Boards. We invite you to take a walk on 7th Avenue to the Ellwood Candy Company where some of the auction items are on display. There will be dozens of Raffle Buckets to choose from; \$10 gets you 20 tickets.

One of the best Oktoberfests in Lawrence County. Enjoy sampling great brews, eating delicious food, having fun with friends, family and neighbors. All the monies raised help support the programs and projects of the Wolves Club, Rotary Club of Ellwood City, and Ellwood City Lions Club. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Jean at 724-622-7102, Pete's Uptown or any member of the Wolves, Rotary or Lions Clubs.

Great Work by the Erie Club



You will be able to see our new digital billboard on West 12th St (right past the Prep Event Center) and also on Peach St. as you drive south right by Grandview on the left hand side of road.

The Rotary Club of Erie has engaged in efforts to draw attention to the Club and promote membership. The billboard above was in two places in Erie, promoting the 2024-25 theme "The Magic of Rotary."

Under the leadership of our 2023-24 President, our Club engaged in the development of a Strategic Plan that included membership and member engagement. This included a membership campaign designed to encourage members to invite prospective candidates to our meetings and resulted in nine new members to the Club! Our membership committee, led by Penny Mechley-Porter, developed a more cohesive, engaging mentorship process for these new members. The Club was able to maintain stable membership numbers throughout the year due to these efforts. In addition to the billboards, the speakers at our Club meetings are being recorded and aired on WPSE, the Penn State Behrend radio station, furthering our reach into the community.

During the 2023-24 year, the Club held a public fundraiser—a bingo event, which brought in a profit of \$2300.00. The money earned from this event was directed to charities, including Shelter Box and the Coins for Alzheimer's Trust.

The 13th Annual Ethics Symposium was a huge success with a record number of student participants from fourteen Erie County School Districts! There were 169 student participants, a 20% increase from the previous year, and 22 faculty advisors in attendance. Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Erie and Mercyhurst University facilitated instruction for the day. Feedback from student/participant surveys indicated that 94% of the students rated the day as good/excellent! Plans for the 14th Annual Ethics Symposium are

already underway!

And now to another year! We have several exciting projects planned for the coming year:

- We are creating **a new Interact Club at the Erie County Technical School**. This effort will give us access to students from 13 different school districts across Erie County, furthering the reach of Rotary! The students from ECTS are consistent participants in the Ethics Symposium from year-to-year and very eager to engage in this new venture. We look forward to several collaborative projects with these students!
- A **Peace Pole** will be created and installed in Griswald Park in downtown Erie. This has been a long-term goal for some of our members and the plan is unfolding to have it installed in the Spring of 2025. Our DG Zach Covington has this as a part of his agenda for his year, and we plan to also roll his goal of planting trees (one for each member) into the dedication event. The most exciting part of this is that our new Interact Club at Erie County Technical School will be creating the Pole, the bench, and working directly with the City of Erie Public Works to install the Pole. This is an excellent learning opportunity for these students and a way for them to learn more about Rotary and engage with the Club!
- And finally, we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of a **Rotary Exchange student from Spain**. This was an emergency arrangement as the student was displaced from her original site and needed an alternative. So many members of the Erie Club—Tatiana Bogatova, Geri Cicchetti, Joseph Kuvshnikov, and others—have all stepped up in the last two weeks to make this a reality. And thank you to the host family, several community partners, the district 7280 staff—Mary Lord and Beth Marshall—all for working closely with us. We look forward to welcoming this young woman into our Rotary family!

Sleep in Heavenly Peace



On August 17th, Rotary clubs from Cranberry Township and surrounding areas came together for a meaningful and impactful community service project, partnering with [Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#) (SHP) to build beds for children in need. This collaborative effort highlights our commitment to addressing local needs and making a difference in the lives of families



within our
community.
Through teamwork
and dedication, we

assembled and delivered high-quality beds, ensuring that more children could have a comfortable place to sleep. We are proud to support SHP's mission of "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town" and are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a worthy cause. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a success!

Save the Date! Nov 9 - District Fall Workshop





WORKSHOP *& Membership Summit*

Share an exciting day with
DISTRICT 7280 and its
IRRESISTIBLE members!

NOVEMBER 9, 2024

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WANANGO COUNTRY CLUB
314 CHESTNUT STREET, RENO, PA 16343