

# Rotary



# Club of Gaithersburg

March 30th, 2025

## Club Meeting

Meets First and third Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. in La Villa Restaurant [18701 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879](#)

Also, on Zoom the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. For logon information, write to [gaithersurgrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:gaithersurgrotaryclub@gmail.com)

## Club Leaders

**Priscilla S. Kinnear**  
President  
President-Elect

**Jacqueline Grenning-Mulcahy**  
President-Nominee  
Secretary

**Dan Dellon**  
Treasurer

**Margaret Young**  
Club Service Chair  
Immediate Past President

**Janet Greiner**  
Club Foundation Chair

**Frederick Cooksey**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Ken Weiss**  
Bulletin Editor

## Events

April 1st in La Villa  
**[What Is Mediation](#)**  
**Speaker:** Steven Corn, BCPA  
**Subject:** What Is Mediation and "Mediate...Don't Litigate"

April 1st, 4:00 p.m.  
**[Provide and Serve Dinner for Let's Read](#)** at Stedwick Community Center in Montgomery Village

April 7th, on Zoom, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting of members helping prepare for **Flags For Our Heroes**. Contact IPP Margaret for information.

April 15th o La Villa  
**[Mercy Health Clinic](#)**  
**Speaker:** Denise Fredericks, Director of Development Mercy Health Clinic

## Rotary Legislation Explained



**The Rotary Council on Legislation** is a body within Rotary International that meets every three years to discuss and vote on enactments that would change the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, the RI Constitution, or the RI Bylaws. In brief, this is big stuff.

The council is meeting this year and has 84 enactments to consider. They come from districts around the world, most notably from India. Each district has one vote on the council. Our representative, **Barton Goldenberg**, is highly qualified. He invited Rotary members in our district to a Zoom meeting on March 26th and asked for our guidance on 8 of the 84 enactments, but we managed to discuss just 3 of them.

The first was: to "remove the requirement to hold an annual **district conference**." That got into the cost to the districts and RI, the numbers of participants, and more. It is truly a hard decision. The second was to "amend the titles of the President-Elect **training seminar** and the district training assembly." This is not just semantics. The difference is whether each district will **train** its presidents-elect or will create an environment in which they can **learn**. The third was whether to "increase per capita **dues** and amend the process for determining per capita dues." A few more dollars a quarter is not huge for most of us, but what about the Rotarians in low-income countries?

It was a true pleasure to participate in the Zoom meeting with many leaders in our district. We will soon know the outcome of each of the enactments, as the council will meet in mid-April.

## Leadership Montgomery

The speaker in our Zoom meeting on March 25th was Rotarian **Sara Bernett**, and her topic was **Leadership Montgomery**. Sara is the Director of Programs and Training for that organization. She got to know Rotary when our member, John Cabrera, invited her to help distribute dictionaries in elementary schools, and is now the president of her club.

Sara is a Montgomery County native. Her background includes leadership roles in the Corporate Volunteer Council and Junior Achievement. The **vision** of Leadership Montgomery, she said, is to create "...a legacy of leaders that inspire and advance Montgomery County, MD and beyond." It attempts to do this through five programs: Engage Montgomery, Leadership Essentials, Emerging Leaders, Elevate, and CORE. Also, it provides consulting and workshops.

Much of the costs are paid by participants or their companies/organizations as program fees. Benefits to the participants include an understanding of how the county works and contact with their peers and county government officials. They learn whom to reach out to for solving problems and getting things done. She reported a current downturn in applications due to uncertainties about the actions of the U.S. government.

Sara finished by telling us a bit about her Rotary, the Downtown Silver Spring Club. It focuses on youth literacy, including the "Storytown" project for giving books to children. It also has major commitments to the environment and to other Rotary priorities. The club meets at 8:00 a.m.--the first and third Friday of each month on Zoom and the second and fourth Friday at the Fenton Cafe. Visitors are welcome.



### The Rotary Four-way Test

#### Of all that we think, say and do:

- Is it the truth?
  - Is it fair to all concerned?
  - Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
  - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
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## Our Meeting Last Tuesday



On Tuesday, we wished **Janet** a happy birthday. Too bad she was on Zoom and could not put on our beautiful birthday vest. Then, we heard brief reports on our Red Line Happy Hour on April 29th, our **Flags For Our Heroes** project on Memorial Day weekend, and our dinner for **kids learning English** on April 1st. That will be fun for everyone.

The Foundation Board could not name its **new grantees** because it had not sent award letters to them. Rumor has it that those have now been sent, and we will receive this important information in our next meeting.

Our guest speaker won praise from everyone in the room. Our next speaker, on April 1st, will talk about **mediation** as a peaceful way to resolve differences of opinion. That is really needed these days!

There were numerous **happy dollars**, mostly for the speaker. Margaret paid \$5 to say that April first, no fooling, was the anniversary of her move to the USA, and a good one for us it was. Diana was happy for a visit from her Swedish cousin, who now lives in the great state of Minnesota.

It was a Zoom meeting, so there was no 50-50 drawing. Someone **must** win the pot soon. The odds have gone down from 1 in 26 to 1 in 8.5. That is just a bit better than the Maryland State Lottery.

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