



Rotary
District 7670



October 2024 Newsletter
District Governor Connie Molland

October is Community Economic and Development Month

OCTOBER IS

**ECONOMIC &
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
MONTH**

Foster sustainable growth,
empower communities, and
support economic initiatives.



Rotary
District 7670



Hurricane Helene: A Statement from DG Connie

By Connie M. Molland

To Rotary District 7670 from District Governor Connie

The devastation caused by Hurricane Helene has deeply impacted and been felt throughout District 7670. It is challenging for Rotarians, as People of Action dedicated to serving others, to find themselves on the receiving end of assistance. A crisis management team has been assembled for our District, and a special bulletin will be sent to all Rotarians each Tuesday. It will provide important information about Hurricane Helene, its impact on our district, and the recovery efforts being put in place. If you haven't yet heard from your club President, please reach out and update them on your status. We're working to ensure that all Rotarians in District 7670 are accounted for.

Rotarians ARE People of Action, and together, we WILL get through this.

Foundation Banquet Postponed

The
Rotary
Foundation



In light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene and the ongoing recovery efforts, we regret to

inform you that the Rotary District 7670 Foundation Banquet has been postponed. We believe it is important to focus on supporting our affected communities during this challenging time.

The event will be rescheduled for a later date, when we can all come together to celebrate and uplift each other. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to a meaningful gathering in the future.

Exciting news: the new logo license plates are here!

By Billi J. Black



Share your love for Rotary everywhere you go!!

If you're a Rotarian ordering these plates for the first time, you can easily place your order online or through your local license plate agency. It's often most convenient to get them during your renewal period.

If you already have the old logo plate and wish to switch to the new design, you can renew your plate and then contact the license plate unit directly to place your order. Just call 919-615-8450 for assistance!

It's RYLA Time

By Vicki Lawrence



It's Time to Recruit for RYLA - ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (RYLA)

RYLA will take place from April 10 to 13, 2025, at Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain. Many students find RYLA to be a transformative experience that fosters lifelong friendships. The program is free for students, and the cost for your club is just \$350 per student for applications submitted by January 31. After that date, the fee

increases to \$400. We anticipate an outstanding program and hope to welcome over 100 exceptional students this year.

Now is the time to begin recruiting students. Each club should designate a Point of Contact (POC) to liaise with the RYLA team. Training for POCs will be held on October 24 at 7 PM (please sign up in DACDB), covering the recruitment process and the RYLA application system. While POCs will manage recruitment for their clubs, any member who knows a high school student with leadership potential should encourage them to connect with their POC. There are no restrictions on Rotary family members attending. The application system will open on October 25.

A successful RYLA event relies on the dedication of volunteers. If you're interested in helping out during the event, please reach out to Vicki Lawrence at assistpastor@firstumcfranklin.org, and she will provide details on available opportunities.

For more information about RYLA, visit www.ryla7670.org (the password for the Rotarian section is RYLA7670).

Let's start getting our students excited about this incredible opportunity!

Exchange student rafting weekend

Friday, September 20, 2024



Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students from Districts 7670, 7680, & 7710 enjoyed a day of rafting and other outdoor activities at the U.S. Whitewater Center in Charlotte.

Kyiv, Ukraine â€" August 13 â€" 26, 2023

By Thomas Franklin Dean



As a retired 29-year Army officer and a veteran of Desert Storm, I have closely followed the war in Ukraine. Over the last 20 years, I have been involved in a dozen wheelchair distributions with the Wheelchair Foundation in 3rd world countries, but never one in an active war zone. Our team of six delivered 240 wheelchairs and 321 combat tourniquets to Kyiv, Ukraine, from August 13 â€" 26. First, I would like to give you some background on how this distribution came about. It began on April 3, 2022. I had not watched 60-Minutes in over 5 years. They were filming in Ukraine, and I wanted to see what was taking place. It showed Charles Pelly filming in a city hospital that Russia had attacked. A young couple had brought their 4-year-old daughter wrapped in a blood-soaked light blue blanket. She dies! The mother was kissing the childâ€™s head and placing the blanket over her head. The event did two things: it brought me to tears, and it made me determined to do something to help the people of Ukraine.

The next day, the incoming president of our Rotary club called and asked if I would support packing 100,000 meals for Ukraine. Our club had packaged 100,000 for Ukraine about six months earlier. I said no, but I would support 1,000,000 meals. We selected a retired Army colonel to head up the project. He put together a multidistrict grant with 3 other districts to accomplish the \$170,000 project. Mission accomplished!

I have had the honor of being affiliated with the Wheelchair Foundation for over 20 years. I cannot say enough good and positive things about this incredible organization! Originally, the plan was to take the wheelchairs to El Salvador. One morning a little over a year ago, I told my wife that I was not supposed to go to Central America. She asked "where are you going?" I said Ukraine. We have been married for

to go to Central America. She asked, "where are you going?" I said, "Ukraine. We have been married for 56 years, and she knows I have always viewed life as an adventure. She always tells me as I walk out the door, "Frank be safe, and come back home."

To begin with, you need money and the right kind of people to do a mission like this. I contacted a friend who had been a part of our 2019 distribution in Peru. When I told him the plan, he said he was in and sent a substantial check that started the money-raising aspect. The second member of the team was one of my tentmates during Desert Storm. This was his 7th distribution with me. Rounding out the team was a doctor, a linguist that spoke five Slovak languages, and two gentlemen that had made multiple trips to Ukraine on humanitarian operations.

After it became apparent the mission was a go, the first team member flew to Ukraine with his wife and daughter to lay the groundwork. Another member of our team that had made multiple trips to Ukraine provided him with a Rotary contact in Lviv with a warehouse. The problem was it was not large enough to accommodate 240 wheelchairs. Our goal was to push the wheelchairs as far forward to the east as possible. That gentleman referred him to another Rotarian in Kyiv who was a past district governor with a much larger warehouse. Sergi was a God sent to the mission with his warehouse, getting our schedule together, and providing qualified recipients.

We did experience some obstacles along the way, but an obstacle is nothing more than an opportunity to excel. The Rotary Club of Marion, North Carolina raised \$28,000, which was matched by the Wheelchair Foundation. The order was placed, and it took about 6 months to manufacture and transport the wheelchairs to the warehouse in Kyiv. Our team began arriving on August 13th and our last members were out by August 26th. Even though there were several daily air raid sirens, we did not catch a single round. However, on the 27th, Putin sent in over 100 missiles and drones. One missile hit a military cadet barracks, killing 48 people.

We distributed wheelchairs in homes and hospitals to civilians and soldiers. I can say this without a shadow of doubt, I love the Ukrainian people. Their will to fight is second to none!

Before I became involved in this distribution, Ukraine was a country at war halfway around the world. Once you can wrap your 5 senses around the situation, it becomes personal. You learn about their pain and what it is like to be vulnerable to daily attacks. You experience their pain. Now these are my friends you are talking about.

We cannot allow Ukraine to fall! I will go back for additional distributions. If anyone in an organization, a Rotary club or district wants more information, you can get my contact information through DACDB.

Comments from our host in Kyiv:

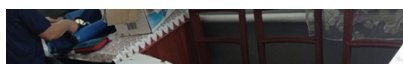
For Rotary club KYIV-CITY, together with Charity Fund DREVLIANIY, the distribution of a container of wheelchairs was a new project. We have not done this before. From our practice of humanitarian work in Ukraine, we knew there was a system of state social services, which, from the state budget funds, were supplying the needs for disabled people in wheelchairs. But, in the situation of full-scale war with Russia, which has lasted 2.5 years, the state budget funds are very limited and have other urgent needs to cover for the wounded soldiers and civilians that have increased by hundreds of thousands. Therefore, we were sure that we would easily find legitimate beneficiaries of the 240 wheelchairs. Our expectations were confirmed. We quickly identified people, hospitals, medical centers and rehabilitation centers which needed wheelchairs. During the distribution, it was very touching to see the happy eyes of a boy who had waited for a long time for the special Kanga wheelchair to allow him mobility. The looks of gratitude from the soldiers with amputated arms and legs energized and motivated people who lost their arms and legs on the battlefield. They had been given mobility! Our many thanks to all donors who participated in funding the container of wheelchairs, the Wheelchair Foundation and our Rotary partners in the Rotary Club of Marion, North Carolina from halfway around the world for sharing their love in the form of wheelchairs and combat tourniquets. We hope to continue with similar projects, because the need for wheelchairs in Ukraine is much more than we were able to get and distribute.

The doctor wrote:

I have been deeply touched by our recent wheelchair delivery mission to Ukraine. In addition to aiding victims of war, we were able help many civilians affected by medical or surgical illness. Seeing so many different groups of people similarly affected with a lack of mobility made the need for wheelchairs starkly apparent.

We were able to help all age groups and genders. The sense of gratitude and hope the wheelchairs brought was priceless. It was a joy to be a part of an effort to ease frustration and make life easier for the patients and those who attended to them.

It is impossible to understand the reasoning behind the brutality to which Ukraine has been subjected. It has been an honor to be so close to those alleviating that harm.





Help With New Home



The Rotary Club of Tryon participated in a pop-up project last week. Rotarians filled cars, vans, and trucks with belongings and helped a family move into their new home at Outreach's Horse Creek Village. The new home has plenty of room for the family of eight.



Rotarians: John Gargiulo, Art Brown, Skip Taylor, Dave Scherping, Larry Poe, Skip Crowe, Pat Gray

The move was organized by Outreach's Client Services & Life Works Case Manager, Michelle Reedy. This new four-bedroom house marks the eighth, and largest, home in Horse Creek Village. The family was very appreciative of the help Rotarians provided to get them into their new home.



Save the Date!!



Save the Date

2025 District Conference

May 9 - 10, 2025
THE EMBASSY SUITES
ASHEVILLE, NC

Registration coming soon!!

Rotary Four Way Test



The 4-Way Test

of things we do and say:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Events

October 7th, 12:45-2:00 PM Zoomformation Call with RID Patrick Eakes	October 8th, 12:00 Large Club Conference--Memphis (by invitation only)	October 8th, 2:30-3:00 PM DACdb U-Finance for District and Club Treasurers	October 8th, 6:30-8:30 PM Online Faculty and Producer Training-Virtual
October 10th, 12:00-1:30 PM DCO (District Communications Officer) Fall meeting	October 10th, 12:00-1:00 PM DG Official Visit - Bryson City	October 12th, 8:30-3:45 PM RLI-District 7610-Parts I, II and III-Warrenton, VA	October 14th, 5:30 Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinars 2024-25
October 14th, 5:30-6:15 PM Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan Webinar >>>JOIN NOW	October 16th, 12:00-1:00 PM Lunch A La CART with Dr. Mark Albers	October 17th, 5:30-6:30 PM CART Conversations - Monthly Info Meeting	October 17th, 6:00 Zones 33-34 Foundation Matters Webinars 2024-25 >>>JOIN NOW

October 17th, 6:00-6:45 PM
Zones 33-34 FOUNDATION MATTERS Webinar >>>JOIN NOW

October 19th, 8:30-3:45 PM
RLI-District 7690- Parts I, II, III - Mocksville, NC

October 19th, 10:00-10:30 AM
DACdb U-Finance for District and Club Treasurers

October 21st, 5:00-6:00 PM
Zone 33 District Membership Chair/DG Line Call

October 23rd, 8:30
2024 Zones 33/34 Zone Summit - Pittsburgh

October 24th, 7:00-8:30 PM
RYLA POC Training

Club Anniversaries

[Cedar Mountain Satellite Club](#)

October 7th

[Denver/Lake Norman](#)

October 23rd

[Valdese](#)

October 13th

Black Mountain

October 24th

Account Leaders



Margaret Fenton Lebeck
District Peace Ambassador



Sarah J McGuire
District RLI Chair



Connie M. Molland
District Governor



Richard Molland
Chief of Staff



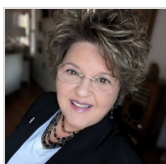
Sean Gibson
iPDG



Alex R Portelli
DG-Elect



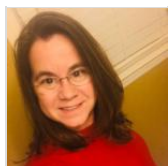
Paige Carroll Scott
DG-Nominee



Tammy Mosteller
District Membership Chair



Kenneth A. Shull
District Rotary Foundation Chair



Julie P. West
District Public Image/PR Chair



Jennifer L. Wilcox
District Empowering Girls Advocate



Michael Lanzilotta
District DEI Chair



Andie R Taylor
District CART Chair



Cynthia K. Ireland
District Polio Plus Chair



Karolyn W. Killian
District Conference Chair



Kathy P Scott
Rotaract Chair



James A. Cruickshank
District Finance Chair



Michael Stevenson
Youth Services Chair



Laura J Phipps
Youth Protection
Officer



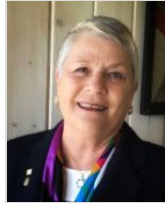
James O. Perry
District Treasurer



John F.
Baumrucker
International
Services Chair



Frankie L Adkins
Youth Exchange
Chair



Billi J. Black
DCO-District
Comm. Officer