



**Rotary**  
District 7670



2023 Newsletter  
*December 2024 Newsletter*  
District Governor *Connie Molland*

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## December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month



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## From DG Connie

By Connie M. Molland



It's hard to believe that we are already into December – our sixth month of the Rotary year! We hit the ground running at the beginning of July with clear goals for us to hit, a strong leadership team, Club leaders who were trained and ready for their year, and high energy. As part of my Official Visits, I talk about how Rotary is a Leadership Development organization – one of the reasons why I joined Rotary was to learn new skills and develop my capabilities as a leader. In addition to world-class online courses, the training to become a District Governor was well-designed, sometimes intense, but definitely fun.

No one could have predicted us being hit with one of the top ten natural disasters in the history of the United States at the end of the third month of the Rotary year! Hurricane Helene hit many of our areas throughout the District and, unfortunately, there wasn't a "play book" to know what to do. We had just approved a District Crisis Management Plan, but we didn't have a Disaster Preparedness Plan. Fortunately, several of my District Governor classmates have had experience with hurricanes and

disasters, and they immediately reached out to offer their guidance. The District Governor Line and several District Leadership Team members leapt into action to figure out how to manage the immediate relief efforts. We often refer to this phase as working on building a plane while we were already flying!

A big and ongoing challenge with this disaster is that there are huge variations in what happened and what is needed (short term and long term) as it relates to relief and recovery. Each community has its own unique problem(s) to solve. Almost every day, calls and emails are coming in from Rotary Clubs and Districts from around the country asking how they can help. Rotarians hear and see the stories of the devastation and destruction, and they want to do something to help us. This is awkward for many of us to be among those being helped – it is in our Rotary DNA to be the helpers! But we need to accept the fact that we need help to effectively recover.

So I'm asking members and Clubs to actively identify short and long-term projects that will help Western North Carolina rebuild; grant money is available from the District, RI Zones 33-34, and from other Clubs and Districts around the country. If your area was not directly impacted by the storm, you can apply to help another community. We have several examples of Clubs that were not badly affected by the storm partnering with another Club in the District.

Money has been donated directly to Clubs, to the District Fund, and to RI Zones 33-34 to help with the recovery efforts. Clubs in our District have applied for over 20 grants so far, and the amount that has been distributed exceeds a quarter of a million dollars with grants ranging from \$3,100 to \$25,000.

If applying for projects using District or RI Zones 33-34 funding, the money will need to be used for recovery efforts related to Hurricane Helene, and we need to have Rotarian involvement.

Our District Community Service Chair, Guy Gooder, is sharing "service days" opportunities on the District Facebook and on the District Website. We are also working on finding an opportunity to do a big "District wide" service project in the first quarter of 2025. Our goal is to have this project involve many Rotarians from all over the District. Stay tuned for more information about this opportunity.

Hurricane Helene certainly took us on a bit of a detour, but as People of Action, Rotarians in District 7670 are stepping up as leaders and finding ways to help and to be helped.

And as we are slowly coming out from behind the Helene cloud, I'd like to ask members to invite a friend, colleague, family member, etc. to a Rotary Club meeting. People are hearing about us doing good work to help others, and they want to be a part of us. Extend an invitation and let them see how "together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves!"

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## **Ross Sloan Tapped as District Governor for Rotary District 7670 (2027-2028)**

By Julie P. West

In a moment of excitement and anticipation, Ross Sloan has been officially named the District Governor (DG) for Rotary District 7670 for the 2027-2028 Rotary year. The announcement was made and celebrated in a special ceremony at his home club, the Rotary Club of Asheville, where fellow Rotarians gathered to mark this significant milestone in Sloan's Rotary journey.

Present to share the thrilling news were several distinguished members of the Rotary community, including District Governor (DG) Connie Molland, District Governor Nominee (DGN) Paige Scott, and Past District Governors (PDGs) Sean Gibson and Billi Black. Together, they joined in honoring Sloan's dedication to service and leadership within the Rotary organization.



As District Governor, Ross Sloan will play a key role in guiding the district's activities and initiatives during the 2027-2028 Rotary year, working closely with club leaders, Rotarians, and community partners to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.

Ross has been an integral part of the Rotary Club of Asheville for 11 years, making significant contributions as a past president and chair of the club's RI Foundation Committee. Currently, he serves as the chair of the Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation Board. With 23 years of experience in Rotary, Ross has also been involved with the Asheville Breakfast Club and the Hendersonville Club, reflecting his long-standing commitment to Rotary's mission of service above self.

Together with his wife, Martha, Ross is a major donor to the Rotary International Foundation. They are both members of the prestigious Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society, demonstrating their strong dedication to supporting Rotary's global initiatives. Throughout his Rotary journey, Ross has participated in impactful projects, such as the District 7670 Wheelchair Distribution Project in the Philippines and a school project in Guatemala. He has also been an active participant in the 2022 RI International Convention and District Conferences and has completed all three levels of the Rotary Leadership Institute.

Professionally, Ross serves as Senior Vice President & Specialty Banking Officer for Dart Bank. He is a graduate of Davidson College with a B.A. in History. Outside of Rotary, Ross has a deep commitment to community service, having served on the boards of Montreat Conference Center and MANNA FoodBank, and chaired United Way campaigns in Buncombe and Henderson Counties. He is also an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Ross and Martha reside in Fairview, NC, with their brown dog, Scout. They are proud parents to two adult children, a daughter in Pittsburgh and a son in the Asheville area. Ross' extensive service both in Rotary and his community is a testament to his dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

The Rotary Club of Asheville is proud to see one of its own take on this prestigious role, and the entire district looks forward to the leadership, vision, and passion that Ross Sloan will bring to his year as District Governor.

With the support of his Rotary colleagues and the inspiring work already underway, Ross is poised to lead District 7670 toward an even brighter future of service, fellowship, and impact.



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**NEW DATE!! Registration is now open for our Annual Rotary Foundation event.**

By Connie M. Molland

Each year, the District Rotary Foundation Team holds a banquet to celebrate and recognize the contributions that Clubs have made to the Rotary Foundation. It is also a time to hear about the amazing work that is being done around the world as a result of the donations that Rotarians have made.

# The Rotary Foundation



On Saturday, February 1, 2025, we will again hold a Foundation Event to celebrate our successes and be inspired by the programs of the Foundation. But this year, we are doing it as a luncheon, and it will be held in Asheville at the Hilton Hotel at Biltmore Park Town Square.

We are thrilled to have arranged for Rotary Foundation Trustee Marty Helman as our Keynote Speaker. Marty has an impressive Rotary resume and, as president of the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation (a small humanitarian non-profit), she has led the efforts to fund the new Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul that will open in February 2025.

To register now, go to DACdb and open the District tab. Select the icon that says Calendar and Events. Make sure that the yellow "District Events" is checked and then scroll down to February 1. Click on the red Register Now button and follow the prompts. As you register, you'll be asked whether you want herbed roasted chicken, spinach and ricotta cheese ravioli, or a gluten-free herbed chicken. Cost to attend the Foundation is \$45 per person.

The Rotary Foundation is one way that we can expand our reach. Please consider joining us on February 1, 2025.

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## Polio - The Work Is Not Done

By Cynthia K. Ireland

One million children in Pakistan missed their vaccinations this year. That has resulted in at least 45 new cases of the wild Polio Virus. With this challenge, it is now predicted that we must continue our efforts through this decade at





least.

District 7670 continues to be generous in support of this cause. We continue to add members to the PolioPlus Society. It is easy to become a member, our district requests a minimum pledge of \$100 per year until we can declare the world polio free. Our support grows with the continued 2 to 1 match of the Gates Foundation. If you are interested in making the pledge, sign up here: [PolioPlus Pledge Form](#)

Remember that donations to PolioPlus also count towards members Paul Harris Fellow. Thank you for your continued generosity to Polio eradication, especially as many areas of our region still have so much need. Rotary Proud!

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## Applications Open for Summer 2025 Short Term Exchange Program

By Jenny Bunn

Calling all high school students interested in the adventure of a lifetime! Rotary's Short Term Exchange Program (STEP) is for students ages 15-18. Exchanges range from 3 to 6 weeks during the summer and are a family to family exchange (meaning that exchange students will stay together in each other's homes during the exchange). STEP allows students to experience another culture, country, and language. It offers a fun learning opportunity while building lifelong friendships and broadening their horizons by increasing awareness, knowledge, and confidence.

For more information, please visit our website, [www.rye7670.org](http://www.rye7670.org) or contact Jenny Bunn, District 7670 STEP Coordinator at [jennybunn@gmail.com](mailto:jennybunn@gmail.com)

SHORT TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
APPLICATIONS OPEN!



**SUMMER 2025**  
START DISCOVERING THE WORLD!

Rotary  rotary  
District 7670 youth  
exchange

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## Rotary International Convention - Price Change Coming Soon

By Lynn M Marks



If you've been thinking about attending the Rotary International Convention in 2025, June 20–25, sign up before December 15, when prices change. Right now, registration is \$525. The price increases to \$625 on December 16, so sign up now! We currently have almost 50 registrants from 16 clubs in our district. Come join us as we meet and greet Rotarians from around the world, learn about the work of Rotary International, attend great breakouts and socialize with the other district attendees.

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## Global Grant Scholar, Daniel Herres Visits Rotary Club of Tryon





Rotary Club of Tryon's Global Grant Scholar, Daniel Herres

If you were fortunate to be at last week's meeting, you had the pleasure of hearing how our Club's support of the Rotary International Foundation is helping bring peace and wellness around the world. Rotary Club of Tryon's Global Grant Scholar, Daniel Harris, shared his recent experience working in Chad with Doctors Without Borders.

In Chad for the last 9 months, Daniel has been supporting Community Engagement and Healthcare Capacity Building programs by training community health workers on strategies for disease prevention and nutrition. Daniel said, "the work has been challenging, but very rewarding".



Several years ago, we made Daniel an honorary member of our Club for the work he was doing in peace keeping around the world. Our Club, District, and Rotary International provided funding to enable Daniel to attend the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. After completing this program, Daniel went on to provide peace keeping services in South Sudan.

Along with other Rotarians, Past Presidents Skip Taylor and Fred Hartely, were instrumental in helping

our Club support Daniel's initial Global Grant Scholarship. Speaking to the Club, Taylor said, "This is your donations to the Rotary International Foundation at work. It was your contributions, that were matched by the District and then multiplied by the Rotary International Foundation, that have allowed Daniel to do his work around the world".

As we approach the end of the year, consider a donation to the Rotary Foundation in honor of the work Daniel Herres is doing with the Rotary. <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>



Rotarians Skip Taylor and Fred Hartely, with Global Grant Scholar Daniel Herres

## 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

September 7th, 8:00  
**Rose Parade  
Decorators Signup  
Form - 2025**

September 27th, 11:30  
**Hurricane Helene  
Relief for the  
Carolinas, VA, WVA,  
GA, TN**

December 9th, 4:00-5:00  
PM  
**CART Donor  
Recognition  
Committee Meeting**

December 9th, 5:30-6:15  
PM  
**Zones 33-34  
Membership Action  
Plan Webinar  
>>>JOIN NOW**

December 10th, 2:30-

December 16th, 5:00-

December 19th, 5:30-

December 19th, 6:00-



3:00 PM  
DACdb U-RYLA  
Registration System

6:00 PM  
Zone 33 District  
Membership Chair/DG  
Line Call

6:30 PM  
CART Conversations -  
Monthly Info Meeting

6:45 PM  
Zones 33-34  
FOUNDATION  
MATTERS Webinar  
>>>JOIN NOW

December 21st, 10:00-  
10:30 AM  
DACdb U-RYLA  
Registration System

January 6th, 12:45-2:00  
PM  
Zoomformation Call  
with RID Patrick  
Eakes

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## Club Anniversaries

Tuscola High School Interact  
December 21st

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## 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



Michael Lanzilotta  
District DEI Chair



Andie R Taylor  
District CART  
Chair

Cynthia K. Ireland  
District Polio Plus  
Chair

Ross Sloan  
District Governor  
- Nom. Desig.

Karolyn W. Killian  
District  
Conference Chair



Kathy P. Scott  
Rotaract Chair



Karen Keating  
District Secretary



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

