



Rotary
District 7670



2023 Newsletter

Special **Thanksgiving** Edition Newsletter

District Governor Connie Molland
Rotary7670.org

A Special "Thank You" from DG Connie

By Connie M. Molland



Looking back on the last 8–9 weeks and all the amazing work that's been done by Rotarians around our District, I am so proud of you all! While our District didn't have a disaster preparedness plan in place, we quickly formed a core team who met daily to chart our path through the immediate crisis. This was especially challenging due to communication

issues (remember not having cell or internet?!?!?), but we kept getting stronger every day. I won't be able to recognize everyone who stepped up in the wake of

Helene at the District level, but I want to give a shout-out to the following:

- DGE Alpo for leading the supplies initiative,
- DGN Paige for leading us with the Club Grants application process,
- DRFC Ken for leading the way to get the first Disaster Relief Grant from TRF,
- Finance Chair Jim Cruickshank for leading our District in fundraising for Helene efforts,
- Community Service Director Guy Gooder for helping share workday opportunities for Rotarians to sign up for,
- District Public Image Chair Julie West for keeping up with all that was going on in our District – posting to our Facebook page, website, and most importantly, providing a special weekly bulletin to keep members informed, and
- Chief of Staff to the District Governor Rick for helping me every step of the way, and
- Rotary International Director Patrick Eakes for establishing the RI Zones 501c3 Disaster Relief Fund.

Of the 25 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians that were in the federally declared disaster area, several counties in our District – Avery, Buncombe, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Rutherford, and Yancey, are still very much struggling and have a seriously long road of recovery ahead of them. The Rotary Clubs located in these counties are both affected and working to help those in need. If you are interested in helping financially, please consider giving to the District Fund or the RI Zones Disaster Recovery Fund. Visit [Rotary District 7670](#) for more information.

With this being the week of Thanksgiving, I am thinking of all that I am grateful for. I am thankful for each and every Rotarian in our District, our District Leadership Team, and I am humbled by all that is being done by you all to spread the Rotary Magic during this incredibly difficult time for so many of us.

Gratitude for Your Support: A Heartfelt Thank You for Logistical Assistance During Hurricane Helen

By Alex R Portelli

On behalf of all of us in D7670 involved in the ground logistics donation effort, I want to extend a sincere thanks to fellow Rotarians far and wide for your support in the wake of Hurricane Helene.



Your rapid response during the initial relief period has helped so many individuals and families begin the road to true recovery and has eased the burden for all. The impact of your donations, volunteerism and support has been tantamount to improving the lives of all affected and reinforces the commitment of Rotary to our communities.

So many of you have pledged your continued support for the long-term recovery effort, acknowledging that this is a marathon and not a sprint. I thank you for your sustained support as we continue to bring the Magic of Rotary to those in need.

Sincerely,
DGE Alpo Portelli

Grateful for the Journey, But the Road Ahead is Long

By Paige Scott



Our clubs have been hard at work providing vital relief and recovery resources to communities across Western North Carolina. As Thanksgiving approaches, there is so much to be thankful for. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to various Club foundations, our Zone foundation and the District Helene recovery fund. Thanks to these donations, clubs have utilized \$79,374 of their own funds which, when combined with an additional \$161,000 in District and Zone funding, are supporting projects in every county affected by the storm. And this is just the beginning. We are committed to being part of the region's rebuilding and recovery efforts, ensuring we emerge stronger than before.

Secondly, I am deeply thankful to the incredible Rotarians who have reached out to the District and individual clubs. The power of Rotary is truly remarkable. Rotarians have taken action and found ways to support our efforts. Finally, I am grateful for the leadership of our Rotary community - from club members organizing and managing projects, to District Governor Connie Molland, RI Director Patrick Eakes,

and Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. Rotarians at all levels have stepped up as leaders and people of action, and I am immensely proud to be part of this collective effort.

While much has been accomplished, our work is far from over. We encourage everyone to stay attuned to the needs in your community and seek out projects that will help us continue our recovery. Grant funding remains available for recovery initiatives, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!!

DGN Paige Scott

Grateful for the Stories

By Julie P. West



The past two months have truly been a journey of learning, growth, and resilience. We've been faced with crisis after crisis, each moment a test of how we manage, push through, and rise above. Through it all, we've also learned a great deal about ourselves and the range of emotions we've experienced—emotions that continue to evolve as we move forward. But perhaps most importantly, we've seen how

compassionate and caring humans can be in the face of adversity.

While my area has been fortunate enough to be minimally impacted by Hurricane Helene, the raw and powerful stories that have flooded my inbox, text messages, and social media have made me feel as though I were right there in the midst of it. The heartbreaking accounts of loss and struggle have been overwhelming at times, yet there has been a deep sense of hope and unity that has come through in every message.

As your District 7670 Public Image Chair, I want to express my deepest gratitude for everyone who has shared their personal experiences, both the challenges and the triumphs, with me. These stories—some deeply personal and others full of triumph—have not only helped to shape my perspective but have also allowed me to witness the incredible strength of our community. Your willingness to share has been both humbling and inspiring.

Rotary District 7670 is truly a special place, and I am incredibly proud to be a part of it. As we continue to rebuild and heal, please know that I am here to amplify

your stories, your successes, and your messages of hope. My email, text, and social media are always open to you. Please continue to reach out and share your experiences, as your stories are vital in reminding us all of the power of compassion and community.

Together, we will continue to move forward, stronger than ever. Thank you again for your strength, your courage, and your unwavering commitment to one another.

Julie West
District 7670 Public Image Chair

Giving Thanks

By Holly Guyer



As we approach this season of giving thanks, take a minute to reflect and give thanks for the opportunity to be a member of Rotary. When you join Rotary, you gain so much more than the title of "Rotarian." You gain a family. You have the opportunity to not only network professionally, but you also have the opportunity to make lifelong friendships and find ways to strengthen our communities together through acts of service. Our Rotary family is comprised of members who will not only celebrate our successes and accomplishments (both personal and professional), they will also stand by us during the challenging times as well (the death of a loved one or a natural disaster such as Hurricane Helene). We are truly thankful for every member this Thanksgiving!

Some Interesting Facts

By Connie M. Molland



HURRICANE HELENE STATISTICS (source: Blue Ridge Mountain Travel Guide)

- Over 1,800 landslides
 - 6,000+ miles of roads damaged
 - 1,000+ bridges/culverts impacted
 - 126,000 homes affected or obliterated
 - 160 water/sewer systems damaged
 - 1.5M+ power outages
 - \$56 Billion in damage
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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?
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