

## D7600 Alumni Association Spring Social

On May 4, 2019, the District 7600 Alumni Association held its spring social. Held on the banks of the Chickahominy River, the afternoon event was an opportunity to convene Alumni and Rotarians from around the District.

Approximately 20 attended to share in fellowship (and barbecue) and celebrate the Association, which had recently been recognized as Alumni Association of the Year by Rotary International. Alumni from diverse Rotary programs, including Rotaract, the Peace Fellows Program, and Group Study Exchange, were among those in attendance.



Among the special guests were Rotarian Ken Hodge, who traveled 8,400 miles with four companions (from Peru to Virginia) to promote world understanding. This trip and the award of a \$360,000 Rotary Foundation 3H Grant to the Newport News Rotary Club helped lead to the creation of an organization called Bridges to Prosperity, an internationally recognized non-profit that was established by Rotarian Ken Frantz – RC Newport News.

The purpose of the event was to: (1) give back a little bit of you to the organization that gave you so much; (2) connect with likeminded Alumni; (3) expand your network of professional mentors; and (4) learn about opportunities that impact your communities. The Alumni Leadership Team had several bi-monthly weekend calls to organize the logistics behind the event. They sent out 6 separate emails, Facebook communications about the event and used personal networks to attract the participants. A thank you is necessary to: **Ken Hodge** for arranging a beautiful spot on the river for a meeting space and working with your family to get us delicious BBQ; **Boo Elmore** for providing all of the disposables and attending every single team call; **Tyel Banks** for bringing your whole family; **Alex Ritchie** for engaging the Rotaract family and being one of the most engaging ice-breaker game hosts; and **Megan Smith** for working on all of our excellent marketing materials. Our incoming Alumni Association President **Vadim Ostrovsky** proudly hosted the event.

Based on the success and positive feedback from the event, the Association plans to host another spring social in May of 2020. This will be a discussion topic for the Association's Annual Meeting at the District Conference in September.