



### The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
June 8, 2020  
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Rotary Club of Jonesboro  
P.O. Box 654  
Jonesboro, AR 72403  
Chartered August 1, 1919

### This Week's Program - June 9, 2020



### Homelessness in Craighead County

Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc., and HUB: Homeless Resource Center, Inc., recently announced the two entities are now joint partners in the fight against homelessness in Craighead County. Both agencies have recognized that collaboration ensures individuals receive bundled services which will lead them out of homelessness and into a life of stability.

Rotarian **Tony Thomas** will join us Tuesday in his official role as Executive Director of CRDC to discuss the new organization.

Rotary Club of Jonesboro Weekly Meeting - Tuesdays 12:00 noon

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### Random Acts of Rotary

By Brian Rega

In this period of weirdness, when we can't gather for fellowship or project, Service Chair **Dana Kennedy** has challenged us to keep Rotary's message of *Service Above Self* and perform Random Acts of Rotary. Here are a few things we heard you did -- anonymously, of course.



"An elderly lady in front of me in line at the grocery check-out who appeared to be of meager means was buying staple items -- bread, milk, deli meat, cheese, and cat food. As the clerk gave her the total, I slipped my debit card through the reader and handed her a Random Acts card. She cried, and the clerk behind the plexiglass did, too."

"Last Friday, I paid it forward while buying a sandwich at the bbq trailer on North Main. I gave the guy an extra \$6 and a Random Acts card. Told him that was for the next customer who ordered the same thing. He was a little shocked."

"Tuesday is trash day, and I rolled my neighbor's empty can up the driveway before they got home." (Good on you! Tuesday is also Rotary day!)

"Stopped in for do-nuts Sunday morning at the same time a nurse was buying a dozen. I asked her if she was headed to work, and she said she was just getting off. I paid for her do-nuts, handed her a Random Acts card, and thanked her for her service. The guy behind the counter said he didn't have a card to give me, but he gave me my do-nuts for a dollar."

"It's barely June, and already hot outside. We left a cooler of water, Gatorade, and treats on the

### Club Leaders



[Brian Rega](#)  
President



[Gary Higgins](#)  
President - Elect



[Nancy Elphingstone](#)  
Secretary



[Gary Clark](#)  
President - Nominee  
Treasurer



[Will Branch](#)  
Club Director



[William D. Burnett](#)  
Club Director  
International Service  
Chair



[Carl M. Cates](#)  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair  
Club Director



[David A Eckert](#)  
Club Director

[Lillie Fears](#)  
Club Director



Nanette Heard  
Club Director



Dana L. Kennedy  
Club Director  
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Marie-Jose Patton  
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Russell E. Shain  
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Barbara J. Widner  
Club Executive  
Secretary  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Eugene J. Wing  
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr



Rachel R. Jones  
Youth Exchange Chair



Lisa K. Golden  
iPast President



Eugene J. Wing  
Assistant Governor

## Events

*All face-to-face events have been postponed due to the coronavirus.*

### Online Meetings

June 9 -- Online Meeting -- Tony Thomas -- CRDC -- Homelessness

porch for deliver personnel."

"Even the simple act of saying 'thank you' means so much. The young lady at Aldi wiping down carts said no one even acknowledges her, much less thanks her for her work. Like the guy who tossed the starfish back into the ocean, you might not be able to save them all, but you made a difference to THAT one."

And then, of course there's the lady who stopped in the inside northbound lane on Hwy 49 headed toward Paragould. A man stopped behind her, thinking she had car trouble. Nope, she jumped out of her car, ran to the outside northbound lane and tried to use a handkerchief to pick up a snapping turtle that she thought might not make it across the five-lane highway. I don't believe the passing (swerving!) motorists who used their horns were encouraging her behavior. And the turtle didn't seem happy about being "rescued".

Practice Random Acts of Rotary, but please be safe doing so.

## Statement from Rotary International

At Rotary, we have no tolerance for racism. Promoting respect, celebrating diversity, demanding ethical leadership, and working tirelessly to advance peace are central tenets of our work.

We have more work to do to create more just, open and welcoming communities for all people.

We know there are no easy fixes and that challenging conversations and work lie before all of us. Rotary's strength has long been our ability and commitment to bringing people together. We will tap into that strength now as we stand with those who are working for peace and justice.

Rotary will do our part to listen, learn and take action to ensure that we continue to contribute to making positive change.

## Rotaract Rising

### The ongoing evolution of Rotaract is redefining its place within Rotary.

◆It◆s a new era,◆ says one enthusiastic Rotaractor

by **Vanessa Glavinskas**

At midnight on 30 June, hundreds of Rotaractors will ring in the new Rotary year together. They'll also be celebrating Rotaract's ongoing evolution, including the expansion of Rotary membership to include Rotaract clubs.

A countdown celebration is scheduled for the last night of Interota 2020, Rotaract's triennial convention, which will be held in Hong Kong next month.

◆It◆s really exciting,◆ says Ignacio Gonz◆lez, a member of the Rotaract Club of Oriente de Talca in Chile. Until recently, Rotaractors have been considered Rotary program participants. ◆Now,◆ says Gonz◆lez, who serves on the Elevate Rotaract Task Force, ◆we are a part of Rotary. It◆s a new era for Rotaract.◆

Rotary President Mark Daniel Maloney and President-elect Holger Knaack, strong champions of Rotaract, will be at Interota this year. It may be the first time a presidential changeover ceremony has taken place at a Rotaract event.

Rotaract's elevated status within the organization was approved by Rotary's Council on Legislation in 2019 as part of an ongoing effort to make Rotary more appealing and welcoming to young professionals. ◆We keep telling Rotarians to find a way to bring in young people, when we have them already and we seem to forget them,◆ says 2018-19 Rotary President Barry Rassin. It was Rassin who formally proposed expanding the definition of Rotary membership to include both Rotary and Rotaract.

[Read More](#)

## Good News, June 02, 2020

And the anonymous benefactor continues to pay for Good News.

**Al Poston** had cataract surgery last week. Now he can see everyone. He is scheduled to have the

June 16 -- Online Meeting -- Dr. Shane Speights -- COVID Update

June 23 -- Online Meeting -- Kevan Imboden -- City, Water, and Light -- Solar Power

June 27 -- Virtual Conference Rotary District 6150

June 30 -- Online Meeting -- Passing of the Gavel

## Birthdays

Erika Krennerich Chudy  
June 11th

Mike Downing  
June 14th

Russ Hannah  
June 21st

James V. Hargis  
June 24th

Jarrett Free  
June 24th

Rajendram Rajnarayanan  
June 27th

Ray Keller  
June 27th

Jerry W. Brackett  
June 29th

Henry A. Germer  
July 2nd

Tom McDonald  
July 2nd

other eye done next week.

**Nancy Elphingstone's** brother had heart valve surgery last week and is recovering nicely.

**Neelam Joshi** announced that NYITCOM graduated its first class of doctors May 21.

## Last Week's Program, June 2, 2020



*"We are dealing with a lot, but we should not let any of it overwhelm us."*

Mark Young, President and CEO of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, gave a very upbeat report of economic development in Jonesboro. He began the program by taking four areas which the Chamber had to address in its ever-changing role to keep businesses and progress alive and well. These areas include business assistance, workplace changes, inquiries, and reshoring opportunities.

When COVID-19 hit the United States, businesses didn't know what to do but they knew they had to adapt. Businesses wanted to do things the right way, the safe way, and the effective way. The Chamber posted COVID-19 resources on its website to guide businesses. Also, during this time, the tornado that wiped out many businesses during the pandemic, challenged businesses. The Chamber again posted relief resources on its website. COVID-19 changed some of the ways products are now manufactured, namely internationally to domestically. COVID-19 also changed the amount of travel businesses will do in the future. All in all, businesses had to change as well as the Chamber had to change.

Jonesboro has succeeded because it has not been reliant on one type of business but has a diversity of business interests. Some cities have been relying on one main business and are not doing so well. This diversity has helped Jonesboro reach its five year goals in just 3 years, 7 months.

The Chamber publishes helpful information and resources on its website:  
<https://jonesborochamber.com>

Likewise, the state of Arkansas also publishes a website with resources available:  
<https://arkansasready.com>

For a more thorough explanation of Young's remarks, check out the video for our program on June 2, 2020.

## June 2, 2020 Online Meeting Video featuring Mark Young

Our June 2, 2020 meeting featured Mark Young, President/CEO of Jonesboro Unlimited and the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce on economic development in Jonesboro.

You can view the meeting by clicking below:



## Report Card - June 2, 2020

### Membership

Total Active Members - 144

Active members - 49

Active-Modern - 11

Active-Partner - 6

Active-Service - 50

Active-LOA - 0

◆Active Rule of 85◆ members - 28

Honorary members - 6

### Total Attendance - 42

Active Members - 38

Honorary members - 0

Proposed - 2

Guests - 2

Honorary - 0

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