



### The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
June 22, 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 23, 2020

By Brian Rega



Jonesboro's City Water and Light Plant was established in 1903 and later became an "improvement district" to provide utilities to the citizens and industries of our city. Separate and apart from city government, CWL responds to community needs while keeping utility rates among the lowest in the nation. Over the years the benefit has been tremendous, as the utility provides service to public buildings, parks, street and interstate lighting, and invests in reducing the city's insurance fire rating. CWL employees personally donate thousands of dollars to support local causes.

Tuesday at Remotary, Slade Mitchell, CWL Energy Marketing Coordinator will talk about the newest power source, solar. How will it work, where will it be located, and what does it mean to you and me? Rotary Club of Jonesboro Weekly Meeting - Tuesdays 12:00 noon

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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### When Will We Meet Again?

By Brian Rega

The question on everyone's mind is "When are we going to meet in the Auditorium again?" The answer is "I only wish I knew." Not to be flip, but that's really the best answer I can give. I had submitted a question to City Medical Director and NYITCOM Dean Dr. Shane Speights prior to Tuesdays meeting asking if there are any conditions under which we could meet face-to-face for our changing of the guard on June 30. After listening to his presentation I felt I had my answer. It's not advisable yet for the following reasons: Our club is larger than the recommended number for assembly. The majority of our membership falls into a more vulnerable population. Dr. Speights made a comment which resounded with me "Things are ok, until they're not." The more we expose ourselves (get yer mind outta the gutter, AI) and our friends to the virus, the more likely someone will get it. That's a fact. You see parties, assemblies, churches, sports practices, and then two weeks later you see a spike in positive cases from people who attended. Your safety and that of your family, mine, and my residents outweighs my personal need to stand before you to say thanks for the memories.

The on-line meetings are going well. 40-60 of us each week via computer or telephone participate in the same great programs we've become accustomed to. There's some fellowship, lots of good information, and touchless human interaction that we so desperately need. If you haven't tried one, please do.

We're settling up our receivables in the form of unpaid dues from January. We've decided to credit pre-paid meals after halting in-person meetings in early March. New invoices will go out in July for the next six month cycle. If you feel you'd rather take a leave of absence (LOA) than meet on-line, you'll still be expected to keep your dues current. LOA only preserves your attendance record.

Service remains important to the Club and our members. The next administration is working on

### Club Leaders



[Brian Rega](#)  
President



[Gary Higgins](#)  
President - Elect



[Nancy Elphinstone](#)  
Secretary



[Jennifer Elizabeth Hannah](#)  
Secretary - Elect



[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  
Community Service  
Chair



Marie-Jose Patton  
Bulletin Editor



Russell E. Shain  
Public Image Chair



Norman Edward  
Stafford  
Club Director



Joe Williams  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



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 23** -- Online Meeting -- Slade Miitchell -- City, Water, and Light -

creative ways to engage us and be the Rotary that we all know and love. When the annual survey comes out, reply and offer ideas and support.

## Rotary Invoice

Reminder invoices were mailed recently for those dues not yet received. Please take care of that before the end of the Rotary year, June 30. We start another six-month billing cycle July 1. If you need a statement, let Barbara know.

## Good News, June 16, 2020

**Al Poston** had cataract surgery on both eyes and now he says he knows what we look like.

**Dana Kennedy** announced Mrs. Bobbie Timmerman, at Nettleton Schools, is going to get a special FBLA award.

**Gregory Hansen** and his wife Betsy celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary today.

**Hank Germer** and his wife Nancy celebrated their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary the 17th.

## Last Week's Program, June 16, 2020

Dr. Shane Speights returned to give us an update on COVID-19.

He began with giving us a global view of the virus. France moved forward with reopening. However, reopening for them meant that one person in the household could leave the home for one hour per day. South Korea had an increase in cases. And, China shut down Beijing due the another outbreak. This virus was a different strain from the one that occurred there in the fall of 2019.

In the United States, 21 states have increasing number of cases, 20 states have decreasing number of cases, and 12 states have stayed level in term of new cases. Overall, deaths are on the decline.

Arkansas has begun Phase 2 of reopening. This means that handwashing is still recommended, a 6-foot social distancing is encouraged, face masks are encouraged but not required, restaurants are now at 66% capacity, there are no travel restrictions in the state, indoor venues now have up to 100 attendees, and places of worship are encouraged to have services online but children's programs can resume. The take home is that going out in public requires personal responsibility. There is concern by the public as to whether reopening is too soon. The good news is that in the senior group, people are taking the precautions seriously.

A letter from Washington Regional Medical Systems in northwest Arkansas stated that they were seeing an increase in infections by the virus. This is not due to increased testing.

We have learned more about the virus since its outbreak. We are not so quick in putting people on ventilators. We know to protect our healthcare workers. We've learned not to dry out those patients in ICU. We limit narcotic use. Patients who are hospitalized need human contact.

The vaccine will be available the earliest by December of this year but only to a limited number of patients. It still will be spring of 2021 before we have a vaccine for the public.

There are some unintended consequences of coronavirus. Concentrating to slow the virus spreads other diseases.

People are tired of the coronavirus and seemingly have given up on the pandemic. They want freedom to choose how much they do to prevent spread of the virus. However, the virus is not finished.

Dr. Speights had a wealth of information, which he reminded us that the information is constantly changing. For a detailed report along with graphs, refer to the YouTube video of our program for June 16.

## June 16, 2020 Online Meeting Video featuring Dr. Shane Speights

Our June 16, 2020 meeting featured Dr. Shane Speights, D.O., Dean, NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro Arkansas & Medical Director, City of Jonesboro, provided a sobering update on the COVID-19 pandemic.



- Solar Power

June 27 -- Virtual Conference --  
Rotary District 6150

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

### Birthdays

- Russ Hannah  
June 21st
- James V. Hargis  
June 24th
- Jarrett Free  
June 24th
- Rajendram Rajnarayanan  
June 27th
- Kenneth Ray Keller  
June 27th
- Henry A. Germer  
July 2nd
- Tom McDonald  
July 2nd
- Wesley R. Eddington  
July 9th
- Claudia Shannon  
July 11th
- Kathleen Doty Pruitt  
July 21st

You can view the meeting by clicking below:



## Report Card - June 16, 2020

### Membership

- Total Active Members - 140
- Active members - 49
- Active-Modern - 11
- Active-Partner - 5
- Active-Service - 48
- Active-LOA - 0
- ◆Active Rule of 85◆ members - 27
- Honorary members - 6

### Total Attendance - 46

- Active Members - 43
- Honorary members - 0
- Proposed - 1
- Guests - 2
- Honorary - 0
- [Read More](#)