



The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
May 10, 2021
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Rotary Club of Jonesboro
P.O. Box 654
Jonesboro, AR 72403
Chartered August 1, 1919

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This Week's Program - May 11, 2021

The Winter Storm of 2021

Our program today is Emily Pennell, Lead Communications Strategist of Southwest Power Pool. SPP oversees the bulk electric grid and wholesale power market in the central United States on behalf of a diverse group of utilities and transmission companies in 17 states, including Arkansas. Hear what Ms. Pennell has to say about the winter storm of 2021.

Ms. Pennell has led communications projects at Southwest Power Pool for almost 15 years. She has over 20 years of experience in communications, marketing, and special events. Before joining SPP, she worked for the Department of Arkansas Heritage and Heart of Arkansas United Way. Emily graduated from Hendrix College and earned a certificate in business analytics from Harvard Business School.



Q&A: Why Rotary isn't purchasing COVID-19 vaccines

By [Jenny Lei Ravelo](#) // 08 April 2021

Rotary International has given \$35 million in grant funding to provide medical equipment such as ventilators, and personal protective equipment to health care workers in response to the coronavirus pandemic. But the donor organization, known for its work on polio eradication, has decided not to purchase [COVID-19](#) vaccines.

◆ We think our strength is really in once those vaccines are available, is how to get them to communities and ensure that communities are comfortable accepting vaccines, ◆ Carol Pandak, director of PolioPlus at [Rotary International](#), told Devex.

Rotary ◆s global fundraising efforts are still mainly dedicated for polio eradication, with the goal of raising \$50 million this year. But the organization ◆s members in countries can raise funding for COVID-19 response activities. While some are providing support to countries on vaccine introduction, such as through the provision of vaccine storage, others are helping educate communities and dispelling information about COVID-19 vaccines, Pandak said.

Misinformation has been one of the biggest drivers of vaccine hesitancy, including in low and middle income countries. But it ◆s not always the same across countries, and Rotary members are working at the local level to understand local contexts and needs, Pandak said.

In India, for example, when vaccinations started early in the first quarter of 2021, among the concerns the government and partners have had to deal with revolved around safety of the vaccines, with the perception being that the vaccines were developed too quickly and aren ◆t safe.

In Nigeria meanwhile, where vaccinations just started mid-March 2021, the government and partners like Rotary are more involved in general sensitization activities on the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations.

◆ We're really trying to leverage that long history of working with local and state governments on polio, to bring that expertise and experience to bear in this space when vaccines are becoming available, ◆ she added.

[Read More](#)

Good News, May 4, 2021

Emelda Williams has three nice desks she is willing to give to whomever wants them. If interested, contact her.

Jill Clogston's son, Kyle, an ASU graduate, has moved back to Jonesboro to accept an IT position with the Colson Group. Her great nephew is the speaker for May 18, Retired Brigade CSM Kenneth Hendrix, and he had a grandson born yesterday.



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Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



Eugene J. Wing
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr



Lori Chandler
Youth Services Chair



Brian Rega
iPast President



Adam Robert Sartin
Assistant Governor

Events

Meetings are in person and online.

May 11 -- Weekly meeting. Emily Pennell, Lead Communication Strategist, Southwest Power Pool. Southwest Power Pool and the Winter 2021 Storm.

May 18 ♦ Weekly meeting. Kenneth Hendrix, Retired Brigade Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army. The Triumph and Tragedy of the Hardest Hit Unit in Iraq.

May 25 ♦ Weekly meeting. Mark Young, President & CEO, Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce. What ♦s on the horizon for Jonesboro and the region?

June 1 ♦ Weekly meeting. Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharya, Dean, A-State College of Engineering/Computer Science. Response to the Needs of Students and Employers

June 8 -- Rotary Club of Jonesboro will not meet.

Birthdays



Erika Krennerich Chudy
May 12th

Marie-Jose Patton's niece, Sarah Hall, was a recipient of ASU ♦s Distinguished Service Award, and she was accepted into medical school at UAMS. Some of you might remember, she was one of our speakers last year on the Student Philanthropy Program at ASU.

Gary Higgins' eighteen-year-old daughter received a scholarship to the University of Arkansas.

Kelly Damphousse announced that ASU raised a million thirty-nine dollars last week during the Day of Giving.

May 4, 2021 4th Hybrid Meeting Shane Broadway A-State VP University Relations

Our May 4, 2021 program was presented by Shane Broadway. Shane is a 1994 graduate of Arkansas State University, and a former state legislator. He served in the Arkansas General Assembly from 1997-2011, with a focus on education policy. During his tenure he became Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives from 2001-2003. The former Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education,

Shane is currently the Vice President for University Relations with the ASU Systems Office in Little Rock. Shane is uniquely qualified to provide insightful commentary on the work of the Arkansas Legislature, which convened on January 11, 2021.

Shane will share a few of the most significant new laws and what they mean to Northeast Arkansas, as well as to the state.

You can view the meeting by clicking below:



Photos from the May 4, 2021 Meeting



Report Card - May 4, 2021

Membership
Total Active Members - 129
Active members - 50
Active-Service - 42
Active-Partner - 4
Active-Modern - 9
Active-LOA - 0



Hatton Weeks
May 12th



Emelda LaVonne
Williams
May 18th



James R. Peachey
May 19th



Gerard T. Connors Jr.
May 25th



Michael R. Weaver
May 28th



Lori Chandler
June 2nd



Barbara J. Widner
June 5th



Marcus C Tribbett
June 7th

◆ Active Rule of 85◆ members - 24
Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 49
Active Members - 46
Friends of Rotary - 0
Honorary members - 0
Proposed - 0
Guests - 3
[Read More](#)