



## The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
May 24, 2021  
Volume 103, Issue 47  
Rotary Club of Jonesboro  
P.O. Box 654  
Jonesboro, AR 72403  
Chartered August 1, 1919

## Club Leaders



[Gary Higgins](#)  
President



[Gary Clark](#)  
President - Elect



[Jennifer Hannah](#)  
Secretary



[Nancy Elphingstone](#)  
Treasurer



[Will Branch](#)  
Club Director  
Vocational Service Chair



[Marie-Jose Patton](#)  
Bulletin Editor



[Hatton Weeks](#)  
Public Image Chair



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



[Audrey Guinn](#)  
Membership Chair

[Barbara J. Widner](#)

## This Week's Program - May 25, 2021

### *What is on the horizon for Jonesboro and the region?*



Jonesboro is the hub and focal point in NE Arkansas for economic growth. With a growing population and cost of living below the national average, excellent schools, a university, vital industries, retail and agriculture, Jonesboro is the ideal community. Even through pandemics and tornados, the Jonesboro community always comes together in support of individuals, families, and businesses.

What is next for Jonesboro and the surrounding areas? Mark Young, president and CEO of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, will update us on the latest work to economically advance Jonesboro and continue its growth on many different levels.

## A challenge to clean the world's rivers

In 2009, Salvador Rico stood in the waters of the Russian River in Northern California with other members of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah. They were there for a river cleanup, during which they removed toilets, refrigerators, car parts, and garbage. That event led to an ambitious initiative called *Cleaning the Rivers of the World*.

After participating in the Russian River cleanup, Rico's thoughts turned to the Ameca River, which flows past his father's farm in western Mexico. That was where, he believed, his oldest sister contracted the poliovirus that killed her in the 1960s.

◆ My older siblings would play in the river, ◆ he says, ◆ and that particular river carried sewage from the city of Tala. ◆

Rico also thought of another river, the Lerma, which runs near his old elementary school. His teachers would let children play in a pristine tributary that flowed from a canyon but not in the main channel of the Lerma, which carried trash and toxic waste from Guadalajara.

So when Rico's district governor, Helaine Campbell, asked clubs to carry out a signature water-related project in 2013-14, Rico proposed a cleanup of the Ameca River.

With the help of Vicente Paredes of the Rotary Club of San Pedro de Tlaquepaque, Mexico, who connected people and worked on logistics, the Rotary clubs of Ameca, Mexico, and of Rohnert Park-Cotati and South Ukiah, California, carried out the first Ameca River cleanup day in April 2014. They have since organized more cleanups of the river.

That project eventually expanded to become [Cleaning the Rivers of the World](#), which has challenged Rotary clubs across the globe to clean up a river. The initiative has been adopted by the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group as part of the Annual World Water Day Challenge, as well as by the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group. Rotarians have organized cleanup projects in Colombia, India, Nigeria, Peru, Turkey, and Venezuela, as well as in other parts of Mexico and the United States.

In 2018, Rico joined his fellow Rotarians in a project on the Lerma River. ◆ As a kid, I always hoped that someday I could go home and do something to turn all the sewage into pristine waters, ◆ he says. ◆ Now I can say, with a clear conscience, that I did everything I could to leave a better world for our kids. ◆

◆ *Frank Bures*

◆ from [The Rotarian](#)

## Good News, May 18, 2021



Club Executive  
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 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



Gerard T. Connors Jr.  
May 25th



Michael R. Weaver  
May 28th



Lori Chandler  
June 2nd



Barbara J. Widner  
June 5th

Annette Heard was happy to be back to in person meetings, and this was her first one.

## May 18, 2021 They Fought For Each Other 6th Hybrid Meeting Kenneth Hendrix

Our May 18, 2021 program was presented by First Sergeant Kenneth Hendrix who, along with Captain Mike Baka, led Charlie Company 1-26 of the United States Army, based in Schweinfurt, Germany, and deployed to Adhamiya, Iraq, in 2007. This courageous military unit sacrificed their lives to change this suburb of Baghdad from a lawless town where insurgents roamed freely, to a secure neighborhood with open storefronts and a safe populace. Retired Brigade Command Sergeant Major Kenneth Hendrix resides in Jonesboro after a distinguished career in the army and is currently Vice President of Operations at S & H Systems, headquartered in Jonesboro and speaks on veteran issues.

You can view the meeting by clicking below:



## Photos from the May 18, 2021 Meeting



## Report Card - May 18, 2021

Membership  
Total Active Members - 129  
Active members - 50  
Active-Service - 42  
Active-Partner - 4  
Active-Modern - 9  
Active-LOA - 0  
♦Active Rule of 85♦ members - 24  
Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 45  
Active Members - 40  
Friends of Rotary - 0  
Honorary members - 0  
Proposed - 0  
Guests - 5  
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Marcus C Tribbett  
June 7th



Tony Thomas  
June 11th



Russ Hannah  
June 21st