



## The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
May 31, 2021  
Volume 103, Issue 48  
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 - June 1, 2021

### ***A-State's College of Engineering & Computer Science Responds to the Needs of Students and Employers***

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently cleared the way for A-State to offer the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Management Systems (BSEMS) degree, as well as an undergraduate certificate of proficiency in controls and automation. The BSEMS will be offered both on-campus and online, and will enable traditional as well as non-traditional students to obtain positions of leadership in engineering companies. Controls and automation are ubiquitous these days ♦ some examples are conveyor systems, cruise control in cars, use of a thermostat to regulate heating and cooling in buildings or controlling the flight path of an aircraft. As for employers, it offers them access to local talent trained in theoretical and practical aspects of controls systems that they did not have before.



Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharyya is A-State's inaugural dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. He will speak on how this new degree will benefit A-State, engineering students, and employers.

## No Meeting June 8



**Rotary will  
not meet  
June 8.**

**See you on  
the 15th!**

## Good News, May 25, 2021

**President Gary Higgins** announced that for the fifth time we were Club of the Year!

**Gregory Hansen** was glad to be back and glad that the Arkansas Roots Music Festival is coming back on May 29th at Craighead Forest's Bandshell.

**Lori Chandler's** little boy is graduating PreK from Discovery Island.

**Marvin Day** said that his younger child got the AT Physics Award at school.

**Norman Stafford** announced that his granddaughter graduated and that her parents will visit in person after not seeing them during Covid.

**Jack Deacon** attended the awards ceremony last weekend and proudly announced that the district was vibrant and engaged in service despite the year with Covid.

**Gary Higgins'** daughters, Emma and Ellie, were voted All State soccer players and Emma graduated from Valley View High School. He also announced that **Brian Rega** was awarded for Outstanding



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 online and in person.

**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.

**June 15** ♦ TBA

**June 22** ♦ Weekly meeting. Alan Keith, Strategic Advisor, A-State Innovate. The A-State Innovation System is a coordinated network of sites and support services designed to foster entrepreneurship in East Arkansas.

## Birthdays



Lori Chandler  
June 2nd



Barbara J. Widner  
June 5th



Marcus C Tribbett  
June 7th

Tony Thomas  
June 11th

Service to the District at the Rotary awards ceremony.

## May 25, 2021 Jobs Expand Despite Pandemic

Our May 25, 2021 program was presented by Mark Young, president and CEO and Cari White, Executive Vice President of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce. 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. Jonesboro employers added jobs throughout 2020, a trend that continues in 2021.

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. Ms. White shared the leadership development programs offered by the chamber.

You can view the meeting by clicking below:



## Photos from the May 25, 2021 Meeting



## Report Card - May 25, 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 - 46  
Active Members - 43  
Friends of Rotary - 0  
Honorary members - 0  
Proposed - 0  
Guests - 3  
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Russ Hannah  
June 21st



Jarrett Free  
June 24th



Rajendram  
Rajnarayanan  
June 27th



Kenneth Ray Keller  
June 27th