

The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
August 30, 2021
Volume 104, Issue 09
Rotary Club of Jonesboro
P.O. Box 654
Jonesboro, AR 72403
Chartered August 1, 1919

This Week's Program - August 31, 2021



Special Update from Arkansas' 24th Insurance Commissioner

Today we are honored to have as our speaker Alan McClain, Arkansas Insurance Commissioner. McClain was appointed as Arkansas' 24th Insurance Commissioner by Governor Asa Hutchinson on April 3, 2020. Prior to his appointment, McClain served for five years as Commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) ♦ a sister agency of the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID) under the state Department of Commerce.

Come and learn about the insurance commissioner's office.

African region marks one year since being certified wild polio-free

by **Ryan Hyland**

Rotary joined its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to mark the first anniversary of a historic public health milestone: the World Health Organization's African region being certified free of wild polio.

The anniversary was celebrated on 25 August during a WHO Regional Committee for Africa meeting, which also addressed current challenges to eradicating polio and new tactics to achieve a polio-free world.

Africa's milestone has already benefited children's health and public health across the continent. The infrastructure and innovations that helped the African region become free of wild polio are playing an important role in the COVID-19 pandemic response and are available to use in future public health emergencies. Polio workers also now conduct other routine immunizations, deliver medicines, and provide other health care services.

The achievement in Africa is the result of a decades-long effort by millions of Rotary members, health workers, government officials, religious leaders, and parents. Since 1996, when wild polio paralyzed an estimated 75,000 children across Africa, health workers have administered more than 9 billion doses of oral vaccine, preventing 1.8 million wild polio cases.

Rotary members have contributed nearly \$920 million toward eradicating the virus in the region, advocated for support from their governments, mobilized communities around National Immunization Days, and conducted events to raise funds and public awareness.

Five of the WHO's six regions, representing more than 90% of the world's population, are now free of the wild poliovirus.

Africa's success in eliminating wild polio proves that the virus can be eliminated under complex circumstances and provides a blueprint for eradicating wild polio in the last two countries where it's endemic: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee, says the certification of the African region is a monumental public health achievement, but the ultimate goal of global eradication remains.

♦ Our job is not done, ♦ says Funsho, a member of the Rotary Club of Lekki Phase 1, Nigeria. ♦ Africa still has a vital role to play in ending polio globally and must continue to reach children everywhere with polio vaccines. ♦

♦ We also face a final hurdle in ridding Africa of all forms of polio, ♦ he adds, citing outbreaks of the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) variant. These outbreaks, he says, ♦ continue to harm under-immunized communities across the region and paralyze children. ♦

Health officials confirmed 609 cases of cVDPV2 across 20 countries in Africa in 2020, a sharp increase from a year earlier. One factor in the increase in polio transmission was the unprecedented pause in

Club Leaders



Gary Clark
President



Will Branch
President-Elect
Membership Chair



Jennifer Hannah
Secretary



Nancy Elphingstone
Treasurer



Jon David Carmack
Public Image Chair
Club Director



Carl M. Cates
Rotary Foundation
Chair
Club Director



Chad Chadwick
Club Director



Lori Chandler
Club Director
Youth Services Chair



Erika Krennerich Chudy
President-Nominee

Audrey Guinn
Club Director
Vocational Service Chair



[Ruth A. Hawkins](#)
Club Director



[Christie Matthews Mink](#)
Club Director



[Marie-Jose Patton](#)
Bulletin Editor



[Ernesto Saucedo](#)
Club Director



[Hatton Weeks](#)
Club Director



[Brock Wooldridge](#)
Club Director



[Eugene J. Wing](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr



[Jill Clogston](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Dana L. Kennedy](#)
Community Service
Chair



[Norman Edward
Stafford](#)
International Service
Chair



[Gary Higgins](#)
iPast President



[Adam Robert Sartin](#)
Assistant Governor



polio vaccination campaigns from March through July 2020 in more than 30 countries in order to protect communities from COVID-19. According to the WHO and UNICEF, 23 million children missed out on basic vaccines in 2020, including polio vaccinations.

Although the African region's anniversary is evidence of what can be achieved, the two countries where wild polio remains endemic are evidence that as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat everywhere.

The GPEI's new 2022-26 polio eradication strategy aims to overcome the remaining hurdles and finish the job by introducing innovative tools and tactics to reach more children with vaccines. The strategy includes the broadening distribution of a new vaccine to address outbreaks of cVDPV2. This novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) protects children against polio while being more genetically stable and less likely to regain strength and cause the vaccine-derived polio. It has already been introduced in several African countries, including Benin, Chad, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone.

The new strategy will expand the regional rapid response teams that quickly start work in areas with outbreaks. Health workers will also have more access to electronic surveillance technologies, which expedite the detection of cVDPV2.

The program will broaden an initiative that has helped more than 250,000 health workers access digital payments for their work in as little as two days. And the program calls for digitization with real-time data and automated dashboards that will help health workers plan more effective campaigns.

from rotary.org

Good News, August 24, 2021

Al Poston carried the mic for Good News.

Russ Hannah announced the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce was having a membership drive. If you know someone who is not a member of the Chamber, get him/her to join the Chamber of Commerce.

Lori Chandler said the school year is getting better.

August 24, 2021 Arkansas Waterfowler Hall of Fame & Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

Our August 24, 2021 program was presented by Michelle Blasengame & Jim Ronquest.

Michelle is a Trustee for the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie and a committee member of the Arkansas Waterfowler Hall of Fame. Jim Ronquest is Director of PR and Broadcast Production at RNT Calls Inc.

The Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie is a memorial to prairie pioneers with over 10,000 artifacts. The winner of many awards for leadership in the field of conservation, this unique museum depicts the history of agriculture and the pioneers who farmed the Grand Prairie of eastern Arkansas from the 1800's to 1921.

The purpose of the Arkansas Waterfowler Hall of Fame is to help preserve the traditions and history of Arkansas duck hunting. Promoting the art of the hunt and the science of waterfowl management to future generations, by honoring those individuals from the past and present who have contributed to Arkansas' duck hunting heritage and habitat.

You can view the meeting by clicking below:

Meetings are online and in person.

August 31 ♦ Weekly meeting. Alan McClain, Arkansas Insurance Commissioner.

September 7 -- Weekly meeting. Mark Young, President and CEO, Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce.

September 14 -- Weekly meeting. Captains Charles and Teri Smith, Salvation Army of Jonesboro.

September 28 -- Weekly meeting. Mike Balado, A-State's Men's Basketball Coach.

Birthdays



[David L. McClain](#)
August 29th



[James F. Gramling Jr.](#)
August 30th



[Lisa K. Golden](#)
September 4th



[Brian Rega](#)
September 8th

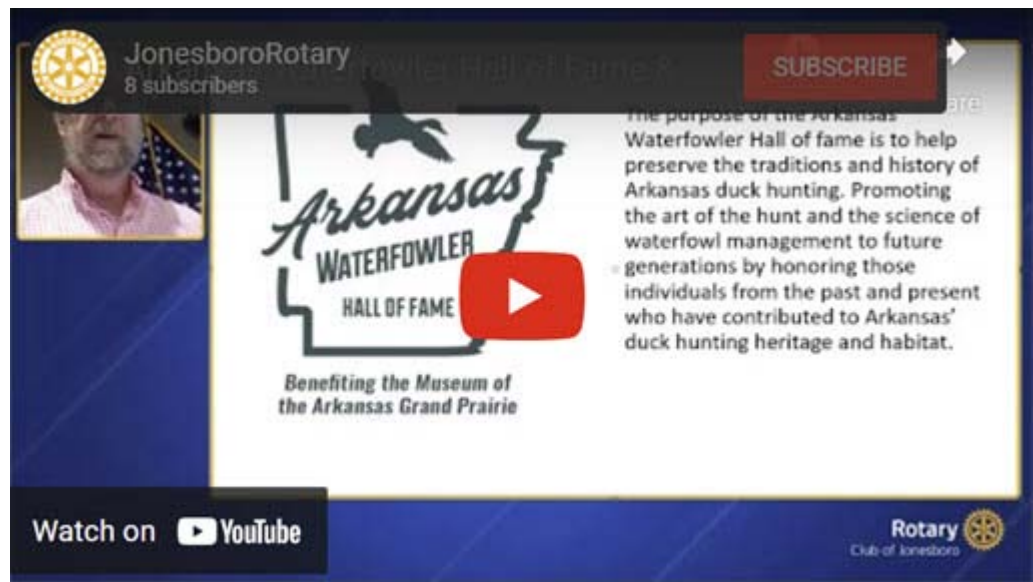


[Lisa B. Frazier](#)
September 9th



[LeAnn Morrow](#)
September 9th

[Dewey Sifford](#)
September 9th



Photos from the August 24, 2021 Meeting



Report Card - August 24, 2021

Membership
Total Active Members - 130
Active members - 47
Active-Service - 43
Active-Partner - 5
Active-Modern - 6
Active-LOA - 0
Active Rule of 85 members - 23
Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 38
Active Members - 35
Honorary members - 0
Proposed - 0
Guests - 3
[Read More](#)



Henry W. Keisker
September 9th

