



Club Leaders



[Randall Ponthie](#)
President



[Robert A. Taylor Jr.](#)
President-Elect



[Judy Caplan Ginsburgh](#)
Secretary



[Robert H. Ginsburgh](#)
Treasurer



[Katie Vanderlick](#)
President-Nominee



[Kristine Antoon](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Dustin L. Matthews](#)
iPast President

President's Message



Let me first thank **Dustin Matthews** on behalf of our club. I have personally heard numerous members thanking Dustin and expressing their appreciation for his service. He did a great job during an unpredictable year. We all know it and we all appreciate everything he has done. Dustin, the appreciation expressed from your peers and club members speaks volumes. It weighs heavier than anything I can say. From all of us, Thank You Dustin!

I believe our Rotary Club is the best! It is the best in Central Louisiana and arguably in the District, State, and South. We are Community Leaders who are serving the needs of our community. When you have a great club, you don't have to change things. The leaders before me have made this club great. My job is to keep it great!

Our club is a body of community leaders serving the community. My goal for this year is to look for more opportunities for our club to serve. It is coincidental that this year's Rotary theme is **◆Serve to Change Lives.◆** I want to encourage our club, and club members, to focus on the issues that matter most to our community. If we focus on service, we will meet the needs

of others and build unity. (Unity is a community need right now!) Let's look for ways to **◆Serve◆** and **◆Change Lives.◆**

Our major project is the Annual Doll and Toy Distribution. It is a great project and it will continue to be our featured project with every member participating. Our club also honors someone with the Service Above Self Award. Since we recognize individuals for service, I would like for our club to be focused more on service as a club; **◆Service Above Club.◆** I will reach out to the community to organize a handful of service projects in the coming year so that our club can participate. They will not be mandatory and will not be pushed on anyone. Consider them optional functions to attend with friends and club members. These opportunities will serve others while building unity and having FUN.

I look forward to representing your club as best I can.

Randy Ponthie
President
Rotary Club of Alexandria

Installation of New Officers and Board

Events

July 6th
Speaker: Dr. David Holcombe
Subject: Report from the Office of Public Health

July 13th
Speaker: TJ Gorham
Subject: Stigmas and Mental Health

July 20th
Speaker: Mark Wood
Subject: RPSO: Making A Difference Every Day

July 27th
Speaker: Jeff Powell
Subject: Schools in 2021

On June 29, we installed our new Rotary Officers and Board. They were sworn in by Judge **John Davidson**. Our new President is **Randy Ponthie** and we said goodbye to current President, **Dustin Matthews** who did an outstanding job of leading our Club through this very difficult and interesting year.



Our new Club Officers are:

Randy Ponthie, President

Sidebar

Thanks to **Robert Taylor** and all his hard work this past year being our Program Chair. If you would like to help with Programs for next year, please contact **Katie Vanderlick**.

Robert Taylor, President Elect
Katie Vanderlick, President Nominee
Judy Ginsburgh, Secretary
Bob Ginsburgh, Treasurer
Kristine Antoon, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dustin Matthews, Immediate Past President

Board Members are:

Larry Cordaro
Frank Jackson
Lafe Jones
Scott Laliberte
Trish Leleux
Aaron Mangum
Jennifer Nichols
Dennie Williams

Club Meeting

Alexandria
Meets at Alexandria City
Hall Convention Center
www.alexandriarotary.com
915 Third St
Alexandria, LA 71301
Time: Tuesday at 12:00
PM

We congratulate and thank all of our previous and new Officers and Board Members for their leadership and service.

Ed Caplan Retires as Club Secretary/Treasurer



Ed Caplan spoke at our June 22nd Club meeting giving an overview of his 66 years in Rotary titled "Thanks For The Memories." After 16 years as Club Secretary/Treasurer, Ed is retiring from that Board position, but will remain an active member of our Club. This meeting also honored Ed for his many years of dedicated service to Rotary and our Club in particular. He received a personal letter of thanks from Rotary International President, Holger Knaack and a proclamation from the Mayor of the City of Alexandria declaring June 22, 2021 Edwin J. Caplan Day. In addition to sharing his memories of his time in Rotary, Ed gave a copy of his book, *Words of Inspiration and Motivation* to everyone in attendance. Thanks, Ed, for the memories and for all you give to Rotary.

Special Grant Awarded

Rotary Club of Alexandria President **Dustin Matthews** presented the 2021 Rotary Educational Advancement Assistance Grant to Louisiana College Senior Ana Martinez.

Ana, who is an International Student from Mexico City, Mexico, is majoring in Social Work. After graduation, Ana plans to pursue either a Masters Degree in Theology or become a Missionary.

With the grant assistance, Ana will be attending Camp Fishtails, a camp for handicapped individuals, in Pinconning, Michigan. Camp Fish Tales is a year-round independent non-profit camp, conference and retreat center which provides a unique and exciting outdoor learning experience where individuals with special needs interact and develop skills that enhance their health, abilities, independence, and quality of life.

Funds for the grant were made possible through the Rotary Club of Alexandria International Committee chaired by **Joyce Hoyt Lyford**. Committee members are **Annie Collins** and Dr. **Greg Gormanous**.

LA College officials on hand for the presentation included Dr. **Rick Brewer**, President; Dr. Beth Poole Palmer, Executive Director for Development and Alumni Affairs; Jo Lynn McConley, Director of Student Success Center; and Meredith Rennie, Executive Director of Calling and Career.



International Students Attending College in Cenla



Each year, our Rotary Club provides Welcome Bags for International Students attending LSUa and LA College. These students come here with very little and they need many basic items personally and for school. For Fall, 2021, LSUa and LA College will each have 30 new International Students ♦ 60 new International Students in CENLA in total!

Our Club's Rotary International Committee will again prepare Welcome Bags for each student. If you can donate "Promotional Items" such as pens, pencils, notepads, tissues, anti-bacterial wipes, lip balm, hand sanitizer, hand lotion, etc., please get these items to Joyce Lyford by **July 10**.

Call Joyce Lyford to ♦connect for exchange, ♦ delivery or pick-up. 318-729-3613 or 776-9381 (H&H) or feel free to bring your items to a Rotary meeting to give to Joyce.

Club Members at the District Level

Several of our Club members are serving Rotary at the District Level in 2021-2022. Of course, our very own **Zeb Winstead** is the Immediate Past District Governor. Past President of our Club, **Haywood Joiner** serves as an at large member of the Finance Committee. Two new members of our Club are also serving our District. **Grace Semones** is the District 6190 Treasurer. And **Erin Roes** is the Rotary Leadership Institute Chair. Erin will organize the three Leadership Training Events that our District offers to every Club member. Congratulations to all of you and thanks for your service to our Rotary District.

New Club Directories Available

Each year, our Club prints a Membership Directory for the convenience of our members. Last year, we did not do this because of COVID, but the new, updated membership directories are here and you can pick up your copy for the next few weeks at our weekly Tuesday meetings. These directories contain information about each of our Club members and they are to be used by our members only. This Directory should not be used as a commercial mailing list or shared with anyone outside of our Club.

Of course, when you print something these days, the minute you print it, it is out of date. This is the case with this Directory as well. We already have about 7 new members who are not in it. In the coming weeks, I will send a supplemental page to add to your Directory with these new members and we will try to keep it as up to date as we can.

You can help us keep things up to date by always letting us know if any of your information changes -- new phone, new job, new home, etc. If you have any changes, please send an email to judy@judymusic.com.

New Members



Abby Blocker was born and raised in Alexandria, LA. She is a graduate of Bolton High School and received a bachelor's degree in Marketing from LSU. She and her husband, Matt have been married for four years, and have a three-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter. Abby is currently the Director of Philanthropic Gifts for the Central Louisiana Community Foundation. She is excited to join Rotary to give back to our community while continuing to develop personally and professionally. Abby is also the sister of Rotary member and President-nominee, **Katie Vanderlick**. Abby's sponsor is **Liz Milesenko**.



Meredith Rennie is the Director of Calling and Career at Louisiana College where she works with organizations both locally and regionally to establish internships and vocational opportunities for LA College students. Meredith has a degree in Business Management/Entrepreneurship from LA Tech and an MBA from Upper Iowa University. She has worked in the field of Higher Education for the past 11 years. Meredith and her husband, Vern, have five children between them ranging in age from 23 to 8 years old. She enjoys being active with her family and participating in her children's sports activities. She also enjoys traveling, bowling and golfing. She is an avid fan of Wheel of Fortune and it is her lifelong dream to be a contestant. Meredith's sponsor is **Rick Brewer**.



Monroe Milton is the President of Manchac Technologies, LLC which helps hundreds of institutional pharmacies across the country provide prescription services more efficiently, more accurately, and more cost effectively. He grew up in Central Louisiana and met his wife, Melinda at Rapides High School. They have been married 20 years and have three children, Julianne, Blake and Kent. Monroe has both a Bachelors and Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M. He is active at Prompt Succor Church and is involved with youth sports. He runs a small cattle farm and loves to take road trips. He joined Rotary to become better acquainted with other individuals working to improve the common good here in Central Louisiana. Monroe's sponsor is **Jack Hodges**.

Amy Pillarisetti is a native of India, but has lived in Alexandria for 32 years. She holds a Graduate degree in Biology, a Masters in English from Punjab University in India and an Immunology masters/doctorate from London University in England. Amy has served on numerous non-profit boards including LSUA, American

Red Cross, Rapides Symphony, Childrens Advocacy Network, United Way and the Arts Council. She is the President of the local India Association. She is married to Dr. Sudha Pillarisetti and they have two sons, Ajay and Anoop. She loves promoting cultural diversity here in Cenla and enjoys cooking (she even teaches classes), gardening and photography. Her motto is: "Unity in Diversity - when we the people join hands as one, there is not stopping to growth, prosperity and peace on earth." Amy's sponsor is **Mike Tudor**.



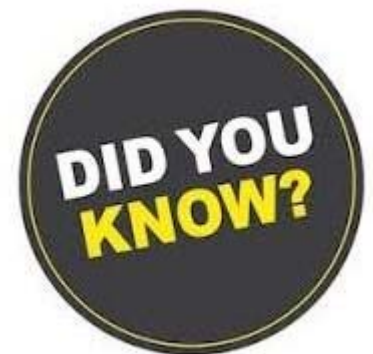
Tara Smith was born in Alexandria and graduated from Holy Savior Menard Central High School. She received a B.S. in Biology from ULM, an M.S. in Biology from LA Tech, and a PhD in Entomology from LSU. She was hired in 2006 by the LSU AgCenter as the statewide extension specialist for sweet potato. In 2018, she accepted the Regional Director position in the AgCenter's Central Region currently domiciled at the Dean Lee Research and Extension Center in Alexandria. In this position, she oversees and supports research and extension programs throughout the Central Region of the state, including agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and youth development and family and consumer sciences nutrition programs. Tara and her husband, Joey have two children, Zoe and Parker. They enjoy outdoor activities and spending time together. Tara joined Rotary to meet and engage with community leaders in and around the Alexandria area. Her sponsor is **Greg Gormanous**.

Beth Palmer serves as the Executive Director for Development and Alumni Affairs at LA College. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts from LA College, Master of Education from North Texas State University, a Master of Business Administration from Texas Woman's University and a PhD in Business/Sports Management from Texas Woman's University. She has served over 35 years in higher education in numerous capacities and was a member of the Rotary Club in Commerce, Texas prior to joining our Club. Beth and her husband of 39 years (Howard) have one son, Nelson who is a Major in the Air Force. Her family is a long-time nursery family with her father owning Harold Poole Nursery in Forest Hill. Beth enjoys working on their property in Longleaf, LA where she especially enjoys operating the family tractor and mowing. Her sponsor is **Mike Tudor**.



Did You Know?

Until 1989, the Constitution and Bylaws of Rotary International stated that Rotary club membership was for males only. In 1978 the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, invited three women to become members. The RI board withdrew the charter of that club for violation of the RI Constitution. The club brought suit against RI claiming a violation of a state civil rights law which prevents discrimination of any form in business establishments or public accommodations. The appeals court and the California Supreme Court supported the Duarte position that Rotary could not remove the club's charter merely for inducting women into the club. The United States Supreme Court upheld the California court indicating that Rotary clubs do have a "business purpose" and are in some ways public-type organizations. This action in 1987 allowed women to become Rotarians in any jurisdiction having similar "public accommodation" statutes.



The RI constitutional change was made at the 1989 Council on Legislation, with a vote to eliminate the "male only" provision for all of Rotary.

The first woman president of our Club was Dorothy Pugh in 1992. Since then, we have had 6 women presidents of our Club and **Katie Vanderlick** is currently President Nominee and slated to lead our Club in 2023-24.

Club Anniversaries

Name	Date joined	Yrs. in Rotary
Buddy Lipsey	7/1/65 *	60
Lou Bangma	7/15/16 *	53

Charlie Weems	7/1/71	50
Nerine Day	7/1/90	31
Bob Bash	7/15/16 *	27
Chad Norton	7/2/02 *	22
Martin Johnson	7/17/01	20
Jeff Marien	7/8/08	13
Larry Cordaro	7/15/14	7
Joel Swisher	7/15/14	7

* denotes some years in another Club

Birthdays

Wayne L Denley
July 1st

Jennifer F Cahill
July 5th

Rachel E Honeycutt
July 7th

Judy Caplan Ginsburgh
July 14th

Adam Jonson
July 17th

Lee Rubin
July 21st

Diana Rogers-Deville
July 22nd

Jennifer Dykes
July 24th

Phillip Dwayne Harper
July 26th

Lana Gail Wilking
July 4th

Wilbert Paul Fuselier
July 5th

Graham Kramer
July 10th

Jerry Gwinn
July 14th

Jimmy R. Faircloth Jr.
July 18th

Jennifer M Tichenor
July 21st

Gregory B. O'Quin
July 24th

Mary Palmer
July 24th

Susan Broussard
July 26th

Thomas C. David Jr.
July 4th

Daniel T Lonsberry
July 6th

Douglas E. Nelson
July 13th

Eamon Halpin
July 16th

Patrick R Cunningham
July 18th

Michael H Davis
July 21st

William Foster Bond
July 24th

Deborah Randolph
July 24th

Zebulon Winstead
July 28th