

Michael Step
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Biweekly, February 3, 2021



NEWSLETTER | www.rotarydistrict6490.org | www.facebook.com/rotarydistrict6490

FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH



Promoting Peace

Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our [vision](#) of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

DISTRICT EVENTS

- February 6th
[ONLINE District 6490 INTERACT Conference](#)
- February 7th
[RI Assembly \(typically attended by district leadership, DGE\)](#)
- February 8th
[VIRTUAL TRAINING: Innovative Club Models \(Zone 31 event\)](#)
- February 13th
[VIRTUAL RLI - Rotary Leadership Institute](#)
- February 16th
[IN PERSON - Marshall Rotary - DG Mike Step Visit/Program](#)
- February 18th
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- February 22nd
[Join Rotary Club of Champaign for a convo with Coach Bielema](#)
Speaker: Rotary Club of Champaign
Subject: Special Club Event open to all Rotarians in District 6490
- March 4th
[District Global Grants Meeting](#)
Speaker: PDG Kevin Yonce
Subject: District 6490 Global Grants
- March 8th
[District Committee Chair Meeting With DG Mike Step](#)
Speaker: DG Mike Step
Subject: Bi-Monthly meeting of District Leadership to review progress on goals
- March 8th
[VIRTUAL TRNG: Start Culture Change in Your Club \(Zone 31 event\)](#)
- March 16th
[PETS: Virtual Assistant Governor Training](#)
- March 18th
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- March 18th
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Opening Session 1](#)
- March 20th
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Session 2](#)
- March 20th
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Session 3](#)
- March 23rd
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Session 4](#)
- March 25th
[PETS: Virtual Club President Nominee Training](#)

DISTRICT LEADERS

Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

Rotary and its members are:

- **Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
- **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.
- **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.

Advocates: Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.

What can you do to promote peace?

[SUPPORT ROTARY PEACE CENTERS](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT PEACE FELLOWSHIPS](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club Attendance

Jane Chamberlain, District Administration/Communication

Hello Club leaders! Thank you for your dedication and engagement this Rotary year. I have had a few questions about club attendance - mostly because attendance is down for most clubs.

Reporting your club attendance to the district is not required.

Your club can decide whether to take and track attendance. Your club can use club attendance as it sees fit.

Over the past several years, Rotary International has relaxed its traditional stance on attendance. Your club can, too. A review of your bylaws might be to see what you "should" be doing with regards to attendance. Many clubs have relaxed attendance requirements, too, to allow more flexibility for members.

If you have any additional questions about club attendance, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks again and best wishes for health and safety in the coming months!

Wanted! Rotary District 6490 Administrative Assistant

Rotary District 6490 is announcing the job opening of an Administrative Assistant to replace Jane Chamberlain. After three years of excellent service, Jane has decided to retire from this position on June 30 at the end of this Rotary Year (although definitely not leaving Rotary!). She will be missed, but we hope to have someone selected in the next few months, so Jane will have plenty of time to help train our new Administrative Assistant.

We are looking for a master multi-tasker with excellent communication skills and an upbeat attitude. Candidates should be able to assist the District Governor by handling office tasks; providing polite and professional assistance via phone, mail, and e-mail; managing the district website; scheduling and managing breakout rooms for Zoom; and assisting with social media. They should be comfortable with computers, general office tasks and excel at both verbal and written communications. Most importantly, candidates should have a genuine desire to meet the needs of others.

This is a part-time position working an average of 15-20 hours per week, but each week will vary. Salary is based on experience. The Administrative Assistant reports to the District Governor.

Since the Rotary District does not have an office, this person will be expected to work out of his or her home. The district will reimburse expenses such as mileage to events,



[Michael D. Step DG](#)
District Governor



[Heather Stoa](#)
District Governor Elect



[Connie D. Walsh DGN](#)
District Governor Nominee



[Kevin W. Yonce PDG](#)
Vice District Governor



[Douglas Bock](#)
Assistant Governor



[Hank Campbell](#)
Assistant Governor



[Janet Ellis-Nelson DGN](#)
Assistant Governor



[Joseph Fearday](#)
Assistant Governor



[Michael C. Hirschi](#)
Assistant Governor



[John Hoblit](#)
Assistant Governor



[Mary Fraser Hodson](#)
Assistant Governor



[Jeremy LaKosh](#)
Assistant Governor



[John P. Mahaffey](#)
Assistant Governor



[Michael W. Martin](#)
Assistant Governor



[James D. Matthews](#)
Assistant Governor



[John B. Meek](#)
Assistant Governor



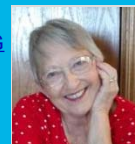
[Judith Story](#)
Assistant Governor



[Deborah West](#)
Assistant Governor Coordinator



[Julie L. Dobski PDG](#)
Director of Public Relations



[Beverly A. Soltwedel](#)
District Trainer

[Kevin D. Kuebler](#)
District Treasurer

[Thomas P. Redington](#)
Director of Youth Service

office supplies, and other items.

Some of the responsibilities include:

- Maintaining the district database and website;
- Providing DACdb assistance to club and district leaders;
- Assisting with development, printing and distribution of the district directory and other mailings;
- Setting up Zoom meetings and breakout rooms;
- Assisting with reservations and materials for district meetings & conferences; and
- Performing other duties for the day-to-day operation of the district office.

This is a fun position working with a great group of volunteers!

To apply, send a resume to:

PDG Arlene Pennie
apennie@comcast.net

Please list Administrative Assistant as the subject.

ShelterBox - Rotary Impact Report

Did you know ShelterBox often responds in countries that have few, if any, Rotarians, or clubs? Sudan, as an example, is a country of 41 million people but only one Rotary Club with less than two dozen Rotarians. In Syria, where ShelterBox has been responding to families displaced by conflict since 2012, there is no Rotary. For these families, Rotary may just be a name on a box of aid, but that aid is impacting and improving living conditions for thousands, right now, who have received our winterized aid package, which included warm coats for children.

To see the ShelterBox Rotary partnership in action please read and distribute the attached [2020 Rotary Impact Report](#).

The Gregory F Yank Leadership Scholarship

Greg Yank, Past Rotary International Director and Past District Governor, passed away in early January, 2021. The Council of Governors of District 6510 moved to establish a Scholarship in his name. His wife, Catherine Taylor Yank, also a Past District Governor, approved, and suggested calling it:

[The Gregory F Yank Leadership Scholarship](#)

Our goal is to endow the Scholarship Fund with sufficient funds to make it a perpetual, annual scholarship. Your contributions in memory of Greg can help make that happen.

TOOLS TO HELP YOUR CLUB SUCCEED

The Importance of



By Bev Soltwedel, District 6490 Trainer

Everyone who is a Rotarian has an important role to play in the success of Rotary International. Rotary members are encouraged to go to the meetings and participate in Rotary activities, locally and at the district level.

We have had many people in our District that have had very successful careers serving Rotary.

For instance, our District Governors. This is a position that takes extreme dedication and time. District 6490 has had many wonderful District Governors. This year, Mike Step DG, is doing a great job working with clubs during this ongoing pandemic. He has visited most clubs, either in person or virtually. Being a DG take a lot of time, a lot of talent and a lot of treasure - I am sure!

Another position that has a lot of responsibility is that of an Assistant Governor. We



[Larry J. Howell PDG](#)
Director of Foundation & International Service



[Julie A. Stump](#)
Achievement Awards



[Elizabeth Palma](#)
District Newsletter Editor



[Jane Chamberlain](#)
District Communications Officer



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Mailing Address: Rotary District 6490, P.O. Box 265, Downs, IL 61736



have several Assistant Governors in District 6490 and they too, have a lot of responsibility. First of all, they serve as the District Governors representative to designated Rotary clubs. Second, they encourage timely submission of reports, payments to Rotary International and district dues, as well as many other reports. Third, they assist club leaders in planning and preparing for the District Governors official visit. Among other duties of the AG are to promote implementation of the Club Leadership Plan.

Also, to motivate clubs to achieve goals concerning membership and retention and to promote the District Conference.

As you can see, the AG position is proactive and reactive. They reach out to clubs that are not doing well and provide or recommend ways to help with problems a club might have. They meet with and help President-Elects implement practices to help each club become a Vibrant Club.

They work with club leaders to promote fundraisers and community projects.

The position of AG takes time and energy also. Our district is very blessed with our Governor and his Assistant Governors who give freely of their time.

The Public Relations District team is here to help take your club to the next level! Whether it is facebook, instagram, press releases, Rotary branding, telling your Rotary story --- we are here to help!

Reach out to PR Director Julie Dobski at littlejewels.julied@gmail.com for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Young Leaders In Action: Rise Up and Unify Youth Leader Conference February 6, 2021

Join us for a leadership & empowerment youth-led experience! We are giving away \$1,000 worth of e-gift cards from stores and restaurants.

[Register today](#) and login Zoom to win!

Take your leadership skills to the next level with Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) February 13, 2021

Rotary Leadership Institute is a program designed to provide the following opportunities for Rotarians:

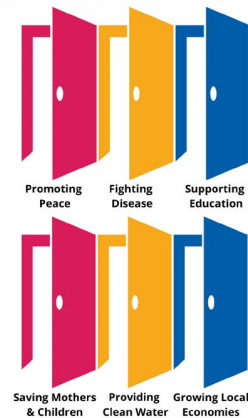
- A comprehensive leadership and development program designed to strengthen individual Rotary Clubs through education, collaboration and the exchange of ideas among current and future leaders.
- A multi-part curriculum facilitated by experienced and trained faculty members that engages all participants through open discussion, problem solving and even creative role-play exercises.
- A program recommended by Rotary International and implemented in more than 400 districts in over 180 countries.

More info: <http://www.hoa-rli.org/>

Register today! <http://www.hoa-rli.org/rli/district-6490-rli-seminars>

Rotary Masterclass - Attracting a Diverse Membership February 16, 2021 5:00pm

Rotary Opens Opportunities For:



**District 6690 Rotary
Master Class Series**

February 16, 2021
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm
Attracting a Diverse
Membership



**Join us for the next
Master Class!**

**Michelle Wilson, Athens Sunrise,
is the current President and a
founding member of the LGBTQ
Rotary International Fellowship.**

**She will share ideas on how to
attract a more diverse
membership.**

**In addition, she'll share what the
Fellowship Group does and how
we can welcome LGBT+
Rotarians in our communities.**

TESTIMONIAL FROM PREVIOUS MASTER CLASS:
Very different discussion than what would normally be
experienced in a Rotary setting - loved the
personal/professional development angle

[Register now](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Special Event Champaign Rotary is offering to District 6490
February 22, 12:00pm**



Newly hired University of Illinois Football Coach Bret Bielema will be the featured speaker for Champaign Rotary Club's meeting on Monday, February 22 starting at noon. Rotary clubs in District 6490 are invited to participate in the Zoom meeting as Coach Bielema spells out his vision for Fighting Illini Football. The first 500 registrants can participate in this special Champaign Rotary virtual meeting. A Zoom link will be emailed to everyone who registers for this event in DACdb.

[Register now](#)

**Infinite Possibilities - Embracing Our Differences
February 26, 12:00pm**

Hosted by Rotary International Director Stephanie Urchick, with featured speakers Past RI President Barry Rassin and Rotarian Brian Rusch of District 5150 in California.



Presented by Rotary District 6960

[Register now](#)

**Presidents-Elect and Presidents-Nominees PETS
March 16-25, 2021**



Land of Lincoln PETS

Rotary Districts 6490, 6510, 6560 and 6580



Save the dates for the Land of Lincoln Virtual Presidents-Elect Training Seminar. Topics covered will include Membership, Foundation, Public Image, and Leadership Development.

Keynote speakers:

- Rotary International President-Elect 2021-2022 Shekhar Mehta
- Rotary International Director-Elect 2021-2023 Elizabeth Usovicz
- Author and motivational speaker Michael Angelo Caruso from Rotary Club of Troy, Michigan
- Amanda Folmer, the youngest president in the 99-year history of the Rotary Club of South Tyler, Texas

The District Governors Elect from the four districts in the LOL PETS alliance will be leading additional breakout sessions specific to each district. If Presidents-Elect and Presidents- Nominee are not receiving pmails from LOL PETS, please let Heather or Connie know.

The LOL PETS website: www.lolpets.org has additional information with newsletters, course assignments in the RI Learning Center, and a soon to be active registration link.

- Tuesday March 16, 5:30-7:30 pm Assistant Governor Training
- Thursday March 18, 5:30-7:30 pm Opening Session
- Saturday March 20, 9:00-11:00 am Session 2
- Saturday March 20, 1:00-3:00 pm Session 3
- Tuesday March 23, 5:30-7:30 pm Session 4
- Thursday, March 25, 5:30-7:30 PN Session

Have fun while connecting people and purpose through leadership training.

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Be up to date on our District's news and events.



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