

ROTARY District 6490

newsletter • SEPTEMBER 2021



www.rotarydistrict6490.org



SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES

District Governor, Heather Stoa



For more than 35 years, I eagerly anticipated the new school year, either as a student or a teacher. I loved school and learning. Unfortunately for many children and adults, my experience with education is not theirs. More than 17% of the world's adult population over the age of 15 are illiterate. And lest we think this is an issue that only

affects other places, our high school graduation rates in the US hover around 86%. When I taught GED, my students recounted why they dropped out: failing grades, drug usage, family issues, work, and pregnancy. Students who start school behind tend to remain behind.

Rotarians have an active role to play in education. September is Literacy Month. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. As we deal with the pandemic, it is important for Rotarians to recognize the impact COVID has had on learning and the social and emotional health of children and teens. I encourage Rotarians to support our Interactors, to serve as mentors for young people, to volunteer as tutors for adults who need help learning to read, to provide additional resources for teachers and schools, to give scholarships so students can pursue vocational training and advanced degrees, and to assist families as they balance work, childcare, and school.

In Friendship and Rotary Service,
Heather Stoa

*District Governor 2021-22
Rotary International District 6490*

Rotary District Conference 2021

Join District Governor Heather Stoa for the District Conference

Sat, Sept. 25, 2021
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Richland Community College in Decatur

RSVPs Due Sept. 20

(Details on Page 2)



Literacy Month

Dates to Remember...

Register for these opportunities at www.rotarydistrict6490.org

September 14, 12 p.m.

Women of Rotary Speakers Series: Shandra Summerville, Champaign Rotary - www.womenrotary.com/speakers-series

September 18

PolioPlus Basket Auction Bidding Opens

September 20, 4:30 p.m. - Zoom

District Leadership Team Meeting

September 20

Last day to register for the District Conference

September 25, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Power of Friendship District Conference, Richland Community College

Rotary District Conference 2021

Sat., Sept. 25, 2021 - 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Richland Community College in Decatur
RSVPs due Sept. 20 ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Have you missed gathering with Rotarians from around the district or hearing about the latest Rotary International programs and initiatives? Join District Governor Heather Stoa for a fun, informative, fast-paced conference as she shares her vision for “The Power of Friendship.” Speakers and breakout sessions will highlight The Rotary Foundation’s areas of focus; feature the work of Rotary Action Groups; provide practical tips for promoting Rotary; offer strategies for attracting new members; help clubs preserve their history; increase our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and suggest ways to empower girls! Wow! All of this and more for just \$35 per person!

Registration opens at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast, famed Purple Pinkie Donuts, and music provided by Michael Scherer and Zach Garrett of DreamVisions Productions. The conference kicks off at 9 a.m. in the Shilling Center Theatre.

Speakers (Details on page 3)

Speakers for the day will be Robert Moore, retired US Marshal; Dean Rohrs, Rotary Foundation Trustee; and Shelith Hansbro, Confidential Assistant to the Director for the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout sessions presented by Rotarians and friends will focus on Peacebuilding, Environmental Sustainability, Eradicating Malaria, and Literacy. Additional sessions will explore attraction and engagement strategies for women, share ways to tell our Rotary stories, explain how to archive club memorabilia and records, and propose collaborations for empowering girls.

And More...

Woven into the day will be the Awards Ceremony, musical entertainment, the Memorial Service, the announcement of the PolioPlus Basket Auction winners, chances to “Ask the Rotarians” (District Committee Chairs) your unanswered questions, and time to sign up for District Committees. The day will wrap up with fun and fellowship as attendees visit the club, district committee, and RAG displays; enjoy desserts prepared by the Richland Community College Culinary Arts students; sample wine and beer flights (additional fee); and conclude with the traditional singing of “Let There be Peace on Earth”.

Bring a Friend

Invite a friend to join you for the day. Attending the District Conference is a terrific opportunity to introduce a prospective member to Rotary and a perfect way to connect with fellow Rotarians and recharge your Rotary battery! Clubs are encouraged to pay the registration fee for members! Carpool to the conference – party bus anyone?



- 8:00 - Opening/Continental Breakfast with “Purple Pinkie Donuts”
- 9:00 - Welcome/Introductions
- 9:25 - Opening Speaker
Robert Moore, retired U.S. Marshal
“Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion”
- 10:05 - Breakout Sessions
 - Peacebuilders Action Group
 - Environment Sustainability
 - Attracting and Engaging Women in Rotary
- 10:40 - Breakout Sessions
 - Archiving your Club’s History
 - Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) Global
 - Public Image Tools
- 11:40 - Awards
- 12:10 - Music
- 12:30 - Lunch
- 1:25 - Keynote Address
Dean Rohrs, Rotary Foundation Trustee
“Africa and Beyond”
- 1:55 - Memorial Service
- 2:15 - Afternoon Speaker
Shelith Hansbro, Confidential Assistant to the Director for the IL Department of Corrections
“Literacy and Its Impact on Families”
- 2:50 - Breakout Sessions
 - Baby Talk
 - Project Read Plus
 - Empowering Girls
- 3:40 - Fun and Fellowship
Dessert Bar/Wine and Beer Flights/Basket Auction Winners/Club and Committee Displays/"Ask the Rotarians"
- 4:20 – Closing
“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

All participants are asked to wear masks except when eating, drinking, or presenting.

Rotary District Conference 2021

Opening Speaker - Robert Moore “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion”

Robert Moore, a Springfield Rotarian is the author of *The Presidents Men: Black United States Marshals in America*. He is a retired US Marshal who has spent over 40 years in law enforcement. The Mississippi native and veteran moved to Illinois in 1970 where he began his career as a state trooper in Rockford.



Moore was appointed a U.S. Marshal under President Clinton, one of 96 marshals who serve at any one time. He is a police consultant, currently advising the City of Springfield on how to recruit and retain minorities and better community relationship programming. He serves as chair of the Illinois NAACP Criminal Justice Committee and is a lead presenter for the Ten Shared Principles developed by the Illinois Police Chiefs and the Illinois NAACP. Moore received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of Illinois Springfield (SSU) and was named Outstanding Alumni in 2021. Memorabilia about African American US Marshals and from Bob's career will be showcased in the Shilling Center lobby display case.

Afternoon Speaker - Shelith Hansbro “Literacy and the Impact on Families”



Shelith Hansbro is the Confidential Assistant to the Director for the IL Department of Corrections. She serves on the executive leadership team and has been tasked with the implementation and development of activities that engage the workforce in an environment of inclusiveness. As warden of the Decatur Women's Correctional Center

from 2010 through 2018 she managed a 20 million dollar facility budget and was responsible for providing gender responsive and trauma-informed training for staff and programming for incarcerated women. She developed a program for mothers and infants that promotes family reunification. Shelith is a graduate of the Prison Fellowship Warden's Exchange Program and has been a guest lecturer in Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand.

Prior to her work in Corrections, Shelith received a Journalism graduate from Northern Illinois University and earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois, Springfield. She was the Director of Public Affairs for the IL Department of Transportation, as well as Community Engagement Specialist for Decatur Public Schools. Her previous work was in television and radio.

Keynote Speaker - Dean Rohrs “Africa and Beyond”

Dean Rohrs, her husband Rhino and their three children emigrated to Canada from South Africa 32 years ago. She grew up in Zambia and after marrying Rhino lived in Malawi, Namibia, and South Africa. Dean was born into a Rotary family. When Rhino joined Rotary in 1986, she became an active Rotary Ann until joining Rotary in 1989. Upon arriving in Vancouver, they joined the Rotary Club of West Vancouver and are current members of the Rotary Club of Langley Central in District 5050.



Dean has had a varied career from the early days of being an operating room nurse on Dr. Christiaan Barnard's first heart transplant team, running a nursery school, and working for the Red Cross in South Africa and Canada. She and Rhino own and manage a company involved in soil stabilization during road construction.

Dean has served at all levels of Rotary, including club president, District Governor in 2007-2008, Regional Rotary Coordinator and Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, Pacific Northwest PETS Chair, Rotary International Director 2016-2018, Rotary International Vice-President 2017-2018, President of the Rotary Foundation Canada 2021, and Trustee of the Rotary Foundation 2020-2023. Her best experience is leading teams of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors to Africa. Many of her efforts in Rotary have been focused on women and girls.

Welcome to New Members

Thank you to their Sponsors! Each One, Bring One!

Chris Bohnhoff, Newton
Vanessa Campos, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Mike Cline, Villa Grove
Ray Elliott, Champaign-Urbana Sunrise
Chrissy Fernandez, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Alvaro Hernandez, Champaign
Grant Jacobs, Bloomington-Normal Daybreak
Melissa Marx, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Reid Molzen, Sullivan
Annie Monyok, Danville
Will Nesbitt, Danville
Ron Slagel, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise

Rotarians Response Needed for a Trio of Disasters

District 6490 Awarded \$25,000 Disaster Response Grant for Gibson City Flood

On August 12, Gibson City and the surrounding area received over 9 inches of rain in eight hours! Homes and businesses were extensively damaged in the ensuing flooding. As requests for assistance went out,



Rotary clubs and Rotarians in our district generously purchased and delivered supplies and donated funds to help with recovery. Past RI Director Robert Stuart, from Springfield and a founding member of the Disaster Network Assistance Rotary Action Group, met with Gibson City Rotarians, District Governor Heather Stoa and Assistant Governor Jim Mathews on August 25 to discuss how to apply for a Rotary Foundation Disaster Response Grant. The grant for \$25,000 was submitted on September 1 and approved on September 3! The grant will cover replacement and installation of appliances, hot water heaters, and furnaces and provide materials to repair walls and flooring damaged by water.



Anyone who has had to purchase an appliance recently will realize that the \$25,000 grant will not cover all those needing assistance. Please consider a contribution to the Gibson City Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 103, Gibson City, IL 60936



During the Gibson City meeting, Bob Stuart noted, “The aid agencies will assist immediately after a crisis. The difference between what they do and Rotary is that Rotarians are there before, during, and after a disaster”.

Haiti Earthquake

On August 14, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck southwest Haiti on August 14, leaving an estimated 650,000 people in need. More than 2,200 people have died and some 12,200 people were injured in the hardest-hit areas. Sixty-six health facilities have been damaged or destroyed. Haiti is still recovering from the M7 earthquake in 2010 which struck closer to the capital, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and the economy. More than 200,000 people were killed and over half a million people were left homeless.

ShelterBox, Rotary International’s first project partner, is working to provide aid in Haiti. To make a donation to ShelterBox, please go to: www.shelterboxusa.org. For more information, contact District ShelterBox Chair Tom Hodson from the Champaign West Club.

Hurricane Ida

On August 29, sixteen years after Katrina made landfall, Hurricane Ida slammed into Louisiana and moved northeast. District Governors Bob Vaughn (6840) and Mark Lee (6200) have assembled recovery teams to identify needs and coordinate response across all affected areas in Zone 31. In many areas, there are no shelters, no electricity, limited resources for food, gasoline and supplies, and scarce medical services. Our Rotary leaders in the area have been affected.

How Rotarians Can Help

Donations can be sent to the District 6840 Foundation ([CLICK HERE](#)). Donations are tax-deductible and will be used to help affected regions in each district. Contributions will help purchase tarps, generators, gas and gas cans, roofing nails, bottled water, chain saws, meals, pet food, baby formula, diapers, cleaning supplies, and charging stations.

If Rotarians have a network to suppliers who are willing to donate large quantities of these items, or are considering sending a team of recovery volunteers, contact Governor Mark Lee at: mark@coastalvolute.com and Governor Bob Vaughn at bobvaughn6840@gmail.com.

If you are interested in serving on a District Disaster Response Committee, contact District Governor Heather Stoa. In addition to donating to the Gibson City Foundation, ShelterBox, and District 6840 Foundation, there are other ways Rotarians can assist:

1. Make a personal donation to Rotary International’s Disaster Response program ([CLICK HERE](#)). This fund helps Rotary clubs provide disaster recovery and support rebuilding efforts for natural disasters. Contributions are combined into one fund and made available through Rotary Disaster Response Grants; they cannot be directed to a specific disaster.
2. Join the Disaster Network Assistance Rotary Action Group. Membership is \$25 a year or \$100 for five years ([CLICK HERE](#)). DNA RAG is an interactive network that assists with disaster preparedness, communication, and recovery at an international level.

September Is Literacy Month

Your Roadmap to Community Engagement

Through Together, We Read, Save the Children and Rotary are taking action together to raise awareness about early learning and to make early literacy and kindergarten readiness a central focus in your community. Here are some steps to engaging members:

2

Determine your purpose: Establish a shared vision, desired outcomes for children and families, and how the partnership/programming will operate to accomplish these goals.

4

Develop an action plan, building on research and best practice and adapting for local context and community needs.

6

Evaluate the results: Continuous improvement is key! Plan, implement, study, make modifications - repeat! Gather feedback from end users, such as caregivers.

7

Celebrate successes to maintain momentum, small wins count!

1

Identify local champions for children and bring key stakeholders together: identify a lead to coordinate communication and keep the work moving. Ensure diverse cross-sector representation with key decision makers.

3

Conduct a community assessment to determine resources, needs and gaps, capture voices of families and community.

5

Implement your plans: assign clear responsibilities, maintain communication throughout and continuously foster positive relationships.

Action Items for This Month...

Organize... Your club's PolioPlus community action plan and fundraiser.

Recruit... Past Presidents to apply for District Governor 2024-25.

Seek... To "Empower Girls" in your schools and communities.

Adopt... A Community Health Worker to help eradicate malaria.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit items for future newsletters to Jerry Johnson via email at jerry_e_johnson@comcast.net.

Please begin subject line with ROTARY NEWSLETTER.



Champaign Rotary's Golf Outing & Corn Roast at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet



Golf Outing

September 16, 2021, at Lake of Woods Golf Course.

Registration 10:00 am.

Tee Times Start at 11:00 a.m.

This event is a 4-person Scramble and includes:
18 holes of Golf with Cart and on Course Beverages

Prizes:

1st Place Team: Each member gets a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant and a \$20 gift certificate from the pro shop.

2nd Place Team: Each member gets a \$40 gift card to a local restaurant and a \$15 gift certificate from the pro shop.

3rd Place Team: Each member gets a \$40 gift card to a local restaurant and a \$10 gift certificate from the pro shop.

4th Place Team: Each member gets a \$30 gift card to a local restaurant.

Men's Long Drive front and back: \$25 gift certificate to the pro shop

Women's Long Drive front and back: \$25 gift certificate to the pro shop

Men's Closest to the Pin front and back: \$25 gift certificate to the pro shop

Women's Closest to the Pin front and back: \$25 gift certificate to pro shop

All of this for \$50 per person

You can register at champaignrotary.org or Sign up by contacting Sam Banks sbanks@dmbgc.com or Dean Cavey at deancavey@verdantpartners.com

Dick Burwash Memorial Corn Roast

September 16, 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm

Rotary Hill Shelter

\$15 per person – Kids under 12 are FREE!

You can register at champaignrotary.org and tickets can be purchased from a Champaign Rotarian, during golf registration or at the Corn Roast.

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~ Attend one event or both! We hope to see you there! ~



C-U Illini After Five Rotary Brews for Books

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021
5-8PM

@ Riggs Beer Company
1901 S. High Cross Road
Urbana, IL



Sample great, locally brewed beers at Riggs Brewery in Urbana!
Proceeds go to help fund the 2021-22 C-U Illini After Five classroom grants
program and other literacy projects for Champaign County Schools.

Tickets are just \$12

- Each ticket is good for **one** of the following:
 - a full size beer
 - three sampler size beers of your choice
 - a full size beverage (like wine or soda)
- Additional beer and beverages available for purchase
- Pulled pork sandwiches and chicken wings! For sale by Blue Dragonfly Catering. A portion of all food sales goes to support C-U Illini After Five Rotary literacy projects.
- Live music with Jon & Therese of Mid-October
- Complimentary brewery tours at 6, at 6:30, and at 7pm
- 50/50 Raffle!



Mid-October



Tickets are limited. Purchase for \$12 each from any Illini After Five member or at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brews-for-books-2021-tickets-167238891025>



Sponsored by: C-U Illini After Five Rotary Club .

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