

# Rotary District 6780 News



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

## District Leaders

Cindy A Gammons  
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Vice District Governor  
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DG-Elect  
Susie Cantrell  
DG-Nominee  
Patricia S. Daughtrey  
District Secretary  
Jenifer Yaggi Campbell  
District Treasurer  
Norman C. Fontana  
AG Coordinator  
Ralph E. Best  
Assistant District Governor  
Deborah Lea Birdsall  
Assistant District Governor  
Montay Calloway  
Assistant District Governor  
David Curtis Chaffin  
Assistant District Governor  
Rob Dansereau  
Assistant District Governor  
Barry Doss  
Assistant District Governor  
John G Downs  
Assistant District Governor  
Debbie D. Farmer  
Assistant District Governor  
M. Janice Mitchell  
Assistant District Governor  
Teresa Musice  
Assistant District Governor  
David S Phillips  
Assistant District Governor  
Clifton (Randy) J. Randle  
Assistant District Governor  
Ronald E. Randle

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## District Governor's September Message



Greetings to District 6780. We are mid-way into September. That means Fall is upon us. I know that COVID has spiked in our district and around the world and I pray that all of you are staying safe during this time. I will have completed almost 50 of my club visits by the end of September. I am thoroughly enjoying all of my visits and travel around the district.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in the Rotary Year. More than 775 million people over age 15 are illiterate. That's 17% of the world's adult population! Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

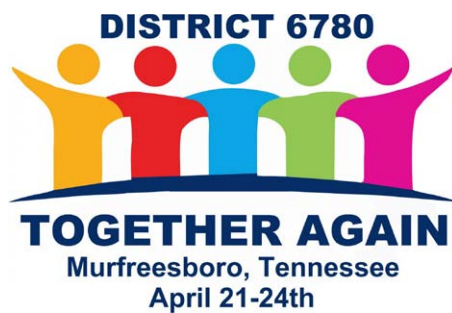
Nearly every club in our district has at least one project each year in support of basic education and literacy, and many have several such projects. Whether it be giving dictionaries to third-graders, working with the Imagination Library, reading to children or packing food for hungry school children, we're committed to Rotary's goal.

With October coming, Rotary will celebrate **World Polio Day on October 24** and it's time to start planning for this special day. Our district's signature fundraiser, The Dunkin' Donut's Purple Pinkie Donut project has begun. John Downs, our Polio Plus Chair, has emailed information to all of the clubs. Read the story below about Dunkin' Donuts Purple Pinkie Day and plan to purchase as many boxes as you can. You pay \$25 for a box of 10 of these special purple pinkie donuts, and, with matches from Rotary and The Gates Foundation, your donation to the End Polio Now! program is \$187.50. You don't get bargains like that often! And remember, if you don't want to eat the donuts, many of the clubs donate their boxes to local police, firefighters, hospitals and other organizations that we want to thank and they love them. Our goal is to raise one million dollars. I know District 6780 is up to the challenge. No matter what you do, find a way to celebrate all that Rotary has done with eradicating Polio.

We have some great training opportunities coming up. The **Vibrant Clubs Workshop** was postponed due to the rise in COVID. The workshop is now virtual. It is Tuesday, October 5, and Thursday, October 7, in the evening. Registration is open in DACdb. Mark your calendars for these great events.

Our **District Conference** will be held in Murfreesboro this year on April 21-24. The theme will be **Together Again**. I hope all of you mark your calendars for this great event. It will be a time for our district to finally be together once again so that we can fellowship and celebrate all that we have done this year.

As we enter October, I want to remind everyone of our three initiatives from President Shekhar:



Assistant District Governor  
Amy Rudder  
Assistant District Governor  
David E. Sergeant  
Assistant District Governor  
Lynda C. Welty  
Assistant District Governor

Membership, Empowering Girls, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Let's all join together as Changemakers as we Serve to Change Lives.

## October 20 is Dunkin' Donuts Purple Pinkie Day



In celebration of World Polio Day October 24 Rotary and Dunkin' Donuts partner to End Polio Now! with the Purple Pinkie Donut Day fundraiser. On October 20 each Dunkin' Donuts location will offer special Purple Pinkie donuts.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 for End Polio Now! - \$600,000 of that from District 6780!

This year we welcome Northern Missouri District 6040 as we expand the project to cover all of Tennessee, Alabama, Northern Mississippi, and now the Kansas City, Missouri area.

Why 'Purple Pinkie'? In countries where the threat of polio remains high, every child under age 5 receives polio vaccine by mouth twice per year during events called



National Immunization Days. When vaccinating millions of children in a short period of time it is impossible to document which child has received the vaccine, so every child vaccinated has the little finger (pinkie) nail of their left hand painted purple with marker that doesn't wash off for about a month. Local communities recognize that children with purple pinkies will never get polio which is cause for great celebration.

Over time the Purple Pinkie has become an international symbol of a polio free world. As of September, only two cases of wild polio have been reported in 2021, compared to 102 cases by September 2020. Thanks to the work Rotary has done, supported by generous donations from people like you, we will eradicate polio!

On October 20 each Dunkin' Donuts location will have a limited quantity of Purple Pinkie Donuts available for walk-up customers to purchase either individually or in boxes. However, to ensure an adequate supply with minimal waste, we encourage Rotarians, friends, and families to pre-order, and we've made that easy to do.

For every \$2.50 donated to End Polio Now! through the Purple Pinkie Donut Fundraiser, participants will receive a free Purple Pinkie Donut a glazed donut stick, topped with a dab of purple icing as a thank you. Through generous matching funds from Rotary districts and The Gates Foundation, each \$2.50 donation becomes a total donation of \$18.75 to help eradicate polio.

Success of the program is driven by Rotarians who pre-order 10-count boxes of Pinkies for a \$25 donation, generating \$187.50 in donations per box! In the first three years, the Purple Pinkie Donut Project has generated more than \$2,000,000 in donations to End Polio Now! Our goal for 2021 is to raise another million.

The Purple Pinkie Donut Project Pre-Orders will be accepted through Wednesday, October 13. Your club may submit a bulk order, or you may place your own order at [www.purplepinkies.org](http://www.purplepinkies.org). For every \$25 donation, you will receive one box of 10 purple pinkie donuts and, thanks to all the matching funds, \$187.50 will be donated to End Polio Now! Watch your donation multiply by a factor of 7.5 and make a huge impact in the fight to eradicate polio.

To receive Paul Harris credit for your donation, include the name of your club and your Rotary ID number with your order. You can find your ID number on the address label of your *Rotarian* magazine.

Your Club President had additional ordering and reporting information, or you may submit questions to [purplepinkies@bluemontgroup.net](mailto:purplepinkies@bluemontgroup.net).

Want to contribute but don't want donuts? Rotary has created a new platform called Raise for Rotary where anyone can donate (even non-Rotarians). Use the email address where you receive Rotary communications to receive Paul Harris credit and include your Club and District in the comments of your donations. You may also mail a check payable to The Rotary Foundation to Bluemont Group, ATTN Purple Pinkies, PO Box 32675, Knoxville, TN 37930. (Do not mail directly to The Rotary Foundation.)

## Vibrant Clubs Workshop Rescheduled



The Vibrant Clubs workshop has been rescheduled will now be a virtual workshop on two evenings, October 5 and 7, 2021. The workshop will begin at 6:00 PM EDT / 5:00 PM CDT each evening. [CLICK HERE](#) to register. When you register, you will receive a Zoom link for the workshops.

### Agenda for Tuesday, October 5

- 6:00 - 6:05 p.m. Introduction
- 6:05 - 6:55 p.m. Membership in a Vibrant Club  
Shelly Christian - District Membership Chair
- 6:55 - 7:00 p.m. Introduction
- 7:00 - 7:50 p.m. Public Image in a Vibrant Club  
Greg Maciolek - District Public Image Chair
- 7:50 - 8:00 p.m. Final Thoughts - DG Cindy Gammons

### Agenda for Thursday, October 7

- 6:00 - 6:05 p.m. Introduction
- 6:05 - 6:55 p.m. The Rotary Foundation  
Debbie Alexander-Davis  
District Rotary Foundation Chair
- 6:55 - 7:00 p.m. Introduction
- 7:00 - 7:50 p.m. Youth Services  
Rachel Moses - Youth Services Chair
- 7:50 - 8:00 p.m. Final Thoughts - DG Cindy Gammons

## COVID Forces Cancellation of RYLA for Second Year



On September 3 District Governor Cindy Gammons notified District 6780 Rotary clubs that a not easy decision had been made to cancel the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) event scheduled for September 25 of this year. She added that although RYLA is such a wonderful opportunity for the students in so many ways, with COVID on the rise, we did not have a choice in our decision.

## Rotary Help for Flood Victims in West Tennessee

Recent flooding in West Tennessee's Humphreys County caused widespread devastation. To help those in need, One Generation Away is coordinating immediate food/supplies needs for the next 24 months with 20 food distributions. All District 6780 clubs are



encouraged to donate directly to the One Generation Away website at <https://www.onegenaway.com/>. This site is only for Rotary purposes.

OneGenAway is a non-profit 501(c)3 that works to bring fresh, healthy food directly to people in need. They strive to eliminate food deserts in the low-income neighborhoods and to serve communities by rescuing food seven days a week from local grocery stores and restaurants such as, Whole Foods, Costco, GFS, Publix, Outback Steakhouse, Aldi, and many others.

## Discover New Horizons at the Rotary International Convention



The 2022 Rotary International Convention will be held in Houston, Texas, June 4-8, 2022. Registration for the Convention is open, and the cost will never be less than it is today!

From now to December 15 the cost for club members and nonmembers over 30 years old is \$475. That cost goes up to \$575 from December 16, 2021 to March 31, 2022, and to \$675 on April 1. Members and nonmembers

age 30 and under will pay \$125 until December 15, \$175 from December 16, 2021 to March 31, 2022, and \$225 after April 1.

Your in-person registration includes a full day of activities:

- Admission to the convention's opening and closing ceremonies and general sessions, where you'll hear from inspiring and entertaining speakers, including top leaders in our organization;
- Information breakout sessions to help you build your communication, leadership, and project management skills;
- Opportunities to network and exchange ideas while browsing the project and fellowship booths in the House of Friendship;
- Entertainment provided by local artists and musicians in the House of Friendship and at the general sessions;
- Transportation between your hotel and the convention venue when you book your hotel through Rotary's official housing partner, Maritz Global Events.

[Read More](#)

## Rotary Voices Presents Stories of Service from Around the World

*Rotary Voices* is the official blog of Rotary International where members and those who partner with us are invited to share their stories of how they are people of action, creating lasting change in the world, our communities, and in ourselves. Rotarians' differing occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable.

From the fight to eradicate polio to efforts to provide clean drinking water, these stories show how we are taking action to do good in the world, one service project at a time.

Check it out at <https://blog.rotary.org/>.

## Enjoy Prom Night with Hartsville Rotarians

Did you miss your high school prom? Or maybe you would just like to relive that wonderful night!

The Hartsville Club is holding a Prom Night dance for couples of all ages. Break out the evening clothes and join the fun on October 2 at 7:00 PM CDT at the Historic Hartsville Courthouse. The area will be blocked off behind and to the right of the courthouse



for dancing under the stars. There will be a photo opportunity for the couples on the porch of the courthouse. Price for couples is \$25. Make it a date night with your love one, and don't forget the corsage!

## Brew Skies Is Back in Chattanooga



The Chattanooga Breakfast Club and the Nooga Nights Club announce that Brew Skies is back. The beer festival will be in a new location this year and have some new features.

Sample unique beers at the AT&T Field on Friday, October 15. The event opens to VIPs at 6:00 PM EDT and to general admission at 7:00 and goes to 10:00.

These tickets are the best value in the Chattanooga beer festival scene, with unlimited tastings from local and regional breweries along with home brewers! Come sample beer you can't buy in any store while having fun in the Ball Park! Over 50 beers will be on tap plus cider and seltzer.

Get your tickets at <http://www.chattanoogabreakfastrotary.com/brew-skies>.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the projects of the Chattanooga Breakfast Club, including an all-inclusive playground at Rivermont Elementary School. The event is rain or shine. All attendees must be 21 or over.

## Update on Former Rotary Youth Exchange Students

*By Bill Nichols, Chair, Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange*

Erika Amarilla Alonso was an inbound Rotary Youth Exchange student in 2019-2020. She was sponsored by the Farragut Club and attended Webb School. Erika has been accepted as an undergraduate at Centre College in Kentucky. She also received a scholarship, so she will complete her degree there. So far, she's loving the campus!

Kaylyn Cavin was an outbound RYE student in France in 2013-2014. She recently sent the following letter:

Good morning, Bill!

Can you believe I left for my exchange year 8 years ago?!

An update on my life since then:

I graduated from East Tennessee State University in May of 2019 with my bachelor's degree in health sciences with a concentration in human health and a minor in culture and health. My goal is to apply to PA [physician's assistant] school in the near future!

My plan had always been to take a gap year after graduating, but COVID turned it into two-ish years. Just to apply to PA school, you have to have a lot of direct patient care experience, so over the last two years I've been working at Johnson City Medical Center as a CNA. I've gotten lots of unique experience like working in



the COVID unit, as well as being on the skeletal traction and orthotics teams.

I had always leaned towards working in pediatrics/family medicine, but I've grown to love ortho and critical care in the hospital atmosphere. I'd also love to see surgery. That's the beauty of being a PA though; it's a very flexible position, so maybe I'll do a little bit of everything! Lol

The summer after I graduated and before COVID hit, I went on a medical service trip to Guangaje, Ecuador (said Gwan-gah-hey) with Timmy Global Health. It is a very poor, rural region of Ecuador with little to no access to health care otherwise. People would walk miles through the mountains to come to the clinic. There was no electricity and no running water in some places. Malnutrition across the board. It definitely makes you realize what you take for granted.

All of that to say, my longterm goal is to work in a hospital or office setting here in the US as a PA to have the stability and safety for my future family but also to go on medical service trips once or twice a year to places that so desperately need access to health care. How lucky are we to have the knowledge and access to health care we have here in the US?

[Read More](#)