



Thursday,
October 1,
2026

DG Tim's Monthly Message - October

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,

October greets us with the promise of change — the crisp air, the golden leaves, and the renewed spirit of service that defines who we are. Friday Night High School football is the best. This month, Rotary shines a spotlight on **Economic and Community Development**, a powerful reminder that when we strengthen communities, we change lives. Just a few of the significant projects that are Creating Lasting Impact around the World: Belize School, Uganda Youth Mentorship, Bikes and Solar lights for Malawi, and the Guatemalan Literacy project.

Everywhere I look in District 6360, we have Rotarians turning vision into action — helping small businesses grow, mentoring young entrepreneurs, and creating opportunities where there were once only challenges. These are not just projects; they are lifelines of hope, dignity, and empowerment.

Economic development is more than numbers on a chart — it's the smile of a shop owner whose doors stay open, the pride of a student who learns a new skill, and the ripple effect of a community that believes in its own potential.

This October, I challenge each club to:

- **Act boldly:** Seek out local needs and respond with creativity and compassion.
- **Build bridges:** Partner with schools, business groups, and nonprofits to multiply our impact.
- **Inspire others:** Share your successes so that your story becomes someone else's spark.
- **Invite new members:** With additional members we can Create more Lasting Impact.

Let's make this month a turning point — a time when our collective energy fuels lasting change. Together, we are not just serving communities; we are shaping futures.

With gratitude and determination,

[Timothy A. Lee](#)

Rotary International District 6360

District Governor 2026-27

FaceBook: amyandtimlee

[Read More](#)

DisCon2027 at Crystal Mountain

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**District
Leaders**



CREATE LASTING IMPACT

2027 District 6290 & District 6360 Conference
April 16–18, 2027



Click on the image above to launch the video.

DACdb registration will open soon.

[Read More](#)

DisCon 2027 Sponsorship opportunities

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

2027 District 6290 & District 6360 Conference

April 16–18, 2027

Why Partner With Rotary?

Rotary brings together leaders committed to making a difference through service, collaboration, and community impact.

Your sponsorship helps create an exceptional conference experience while placing your organization in front of Rotary members, business leaders, and community partners.

Your investment supports leadership development, service initiatives, and connections that create lasting impact throughout our communities.

Your sponsorship will reach more than 3,500 Rotarians who lead throughout Michigan.

Conference at a Glance Districts 6290 & 6360

 April 16–18, 2027

 Crystal Mountain, MI

 Rotary Leaders

 Community Partners

 Service Above Self



LEADERSHIP

Developing leaders
committed to
Service above Self



PARTNERSHIP

Building meaningful
relationships that
strengthen
communities



SERVICE

Supporting service
projects locally and
around the world



IMPACT

Creating lasting
change in the lives
of others

THANK YOU- Your kind support will show Rotarians in District 6290 and 6360 how much you appreciate their selfless service and to congratulate them on their well-earned accomplishments.

All Sponsorships will be recognized in the conference material and during the event based on their sponsor level

[More](#)

[Read](#)

Mental Health & Communication Committees

World Mental Health Day October 10



10/10/10

In observance of World Mental Health Day, here are ten mental health practices that can help enhance mental wellness, emotional wellbeing, and peace of mind.

1. Recall a person who was there for you when you needed it most. Write a thank you note, and hand deliver. If the person is unavailable for a personal visit, write the note anyway.
2. Take a walk in nature. A long walk.
3. Try a new food or spice, or an ethnic restaurant where you've never been.
4. Finish a project.
5. Read, view, or listen to spiritual or inspiring material.
6. Declutter an area in the home or office.
7. Think of someone to forgive. And do it.
8. Help someone.
9. Make peace with a regret from your past.
10. Find something in common with someone you don't 'like'. Lead with love and try to understand them.

HappyWorld Mental Health Day from D6360 Mental Health Committee.

Texas Township - Discover Rotary Event

Many of you have showed interest in the possibility of a new Rotary International club in Texas Township, so I am posting this communication in the District Newsletter. We have a "meeting" scheduled for 10/7, as well as 10/21 at the fire station. (See attached flyer) There will be a regular meeting format to share how a club operates in a community, as well as how the Rotary motto – "Service Above Self", is lived out. - - - AND - - - We are going to have our first service project for the community. The Portage Rotary club has offered a \$500 grant to get the momentum started on this project. We are asking you to bring a smoke detector to the meeting to help the Texas Township fire department distribute them to local households in need. We will provide more information on the specific type the fire chief may be recommending, as well as partnering with our local Ace Hardware store, in another email. We had about 40 people at our last "open house" and I am excited to see everyone next week. Besides the meeting, we will provide light refreshments as well as a tour of the fire station. Let me know if you have any questions. Click on this link to contact me. [Paul D. Carlson](#), Rotary Club of Portage

[Read More](#)

District Foundation Raffle - Sell Every Ticket Challenge

Clubs Challenged to Sell Every Raffle Ticket

The 2026 District 6360 Foundation Raffle is underway!

Each club must sell all of its designated \$25 tickets and return the Tracking Sheet by November 6, 2026. These tickets are no longer physical – there are no pesky ticket stubs to track! Tickets can be paid for by cash or check, or members can be billed by their club. A maximum of 1,500 tickets will be sold. Proceeds are divided between cash winners and the Sandelin Grant Program.

Cash prizes will be drawn at the Jackson Noon Rotary meeting, noon–2pm, on December 9, 2026, at the Cascades Manor House, 1970 Kibby Road, Jackson, MI 49203.

- 1st Prize = \$1,000 (1 winner)
- 2nd Prize = \$500 (4 winners)
- 3rd Prize = \$250 (6 winners)
- 4th Prize = \$100 (5 winners)

Ticket proceeds fund domestic or international community service projects with grant awards between \$500 and \$5,000. Consideration is given to requests that benefit the community, propose a sustainability plan, or are capital expenditures necessary for civic programs.

Past awards total over \$400,000 and are as diverse as funding roof repair in the Dominican Republic to creating a dog park and supplying beds for kids in foster care. Sandelin grants have funded fire alarm installation in a historic building, construction of a kayak launch, and home safety audits for seniors – hundreds of projects have been awarded.

Curiously, while most clubs in the district have a history of submitting grant applications, some have never taken advantage of this excellent opportunity. Let's change that in 2027! Clubs should begin planning now, so that submissions can be made by the April 30th application deadline. A club may apply for only one grant per year and must match the request dollar-for-dollar. [Sandelin Grant Application](#)

For more information, contact michaeljwood41@gmail.com.

Membership Update for September

Submitted by Membership Chair and DGN Mike Huie

Our District was awarded the Highest Net Membership Growing in Zone 28 last year!

We are currently Net +10 so far this year with 16b clubs in the positive. We have a number of Discover Rotary Events that have happened or are planned for the next few months to accelerate attraction. There are some clubs working on creating companion clubs as well.

Our district has been pre-approved by Rotary International to support Discover Rotary events this year and we will be reimbursed. I am thinking that we should target \$50 or less per new member for the events. So, if you expect to have 4 new members join during one of these, you can get \$200 in financial support. If you have an event you would like to let your AG and I know so we can get your event on the list. We will track the clubs, amount spent and number of members joining to make sure this is an effective investment.

District	6360		
Report Date	9/26/2026		
Number of Clubs	51	51	
Number of Members	1992	2002	10
Club Name	Member Count @ 1 July	Member Count @ Current	Net Change from 1 July
Albion	41	40	(1)
Allegan	20	19	(1)
Battle Creek	58	57	(1)
Benton Harbor-Sunrise	35	34	(1)
Berrien Springs-Eau Claire	28	26	(2)
Cereal City Sunrise (Battle Creek)	35	35	0
Charlotte	66	64	(2)

Charlotte Evening	21	22	1
Climax	22	22	0
Coldwater Township Sunrise	63	64	1
Constantine	9	9	0
Delta Township (Lansing-Waverly)	59	59	0
Delton Area	56	58	2
Dowagiac	27	29	2
East Lansing	25	25	0
Eaton Rapids	34	34	0
Fennville Pullman Lakeshore	10	10	0
Grand Ledge	41	41	0
Greater Niles	16	16	0
Gull Lake Area	38	39	1
Harbor Country (Southwest Berrien County)	64	66	2
Haslett-Okemos	35	35	0
Hastings	75	75	0
Hillsdale	35	38	3
Ionia	15	16	1
Jackson	28	28	0
Jackson-Breakfast	24	24	0
Jonesville	23	23	0
Kalamazoo	114	118	4
Lakeshore (Baroda-Stevensville-Bridgman)	32	31	(1)
Lansing	147	145	(2)
Litchfield	9	9	0
Marshall	54	50	(4)
Mason	39	38	(1)
Middleville	30	27	(3)
Oshtemo	17	17	0
Otsego	16	16	0
Paw Paw Area	14	14	0
Paw Paw Lake (Coloma Hartford Watervliet)	14	14	0
Plainwell	13	14	1
Portage	73	78	5
Saugatuck-Douglas	41	40	(1)
South Haven	67	67	0
South Lansing-Holt	19	20	1
St. Johns	30	30	0
St. Joseph & Benton Harbor	80	85	5
Sturgis	18	15	(3)
Three Rivers	51	52	1
Union City	29	31	2
Vicksburg	34	35	1
Williamston	48	48	0

Young Leaders Corner Programs



Inspire. Empower. Ignite.



[Read More](#)

Young Leaders Corner - STEP Program



Rotary

DISCOVER

THE WORLD.
CREATE MEMORIES
CHANGE YOUR FUTURE





ROTARY SHORT-TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE

Livewithahostfamilyinanothercountry3to4 weeksthissummerandexperienceanewculture, makelifelongfriends,andseetheworldina whole newway!Multicultural camps also available.

e **WHO CAN APPLY?**

- Studentsage15to19asofJuly1ofthe exchange summer.
- Opentostudentsofgoodcharacterwithadesire to experience life inothercountries and cultures. StudentsofbothRotariansandnon-Rotarians are eligible!

\$ **ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS**

- Rotary application fee: \$250
- (includesinsurance,orientation,application fees)
- Visa fee when required
- Costofflight,clothingand personal expenses responsibility of student and family.

AVAILABLE COUNTRIES MAY INCLUDE:

Austria,Belgium,CzechRepublic,Denmark, France,Finland,Germany,Italy,Netherlands, Norway, Spain,Switzerland,Mexico,India, Japan, SouthKorea,Taiwan,Brazil,Argentina.

Countries subject to availability of host partner.

Apply by January 31 for best choice of country.

(f) **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Live with a screened host family • Rotary supervision and support
- Cultural activities and excursions • Memories that will last a lifetime.

LEARN MORE & APPLY

<https://www.district6360.com/rotary-youth-exchange/>

e **Contact your Rotary Coordinator: Cathy Jo**
cathyjomattson@gmail.com

901-218-0192
Follow us @rotariyyouthprograms6360

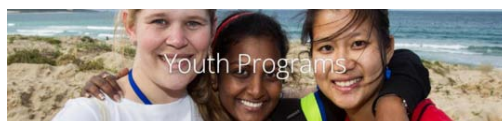


*Take the journey.
Change your life.*

Young Leaders Corner - Short-Term Host Family Program



rotary
youth
exchange



Want to be a short-term host family with Rotary?

What is Rotary?

- World's largest service organization
- Founded in 1905 in Chicago, IL
- Over 1.2MM members in over 45,000 clubs in 200+ countries
- Donates \$350MM+ per year to service initiatives, including: Polio Plus, Shelter Box, global and community level service

projects, scholarships, and peace initiatives, including youth programs.

What is Rotary Youth Exchange?

- Established in 1929 in Denmark (87 years ago)
- Our Rotary district 6360 covers all of Southwest Michigan and includes 54 Rotary clubs; many of these clubs participate in long-term and/or short-term youth exchange programs
- Worldwide, about 9,000 students (ages 15 to 18.5) participate in Rotary youth exchange programs in 80+ countries annually

What is STEP?

- STEP stands for "Short-Term Exchange Program."
- Rotary offers these STEP programs to young leaders all over the world to promote multicultural understanding, good will and peace.
- There are two types of STEP programs: Family to Family (F2F) and Multicultural Camps

What is a Family-to-Family (F2F) exchange?

- 1-1 summer exchanges between a US high school student and an overseas student
- Our US student's family hosts their exchange student in their US home with their own high schooler, typically for one month, and vice versa; the international host family hosts your high schooler in their home abroad with their own high schooler, for about a month
- This F2F exchange is matched by Rotary, and each host family, along with local Rotary club support, provides the cultural experience in their home
- High school students are matched of same gender and similar age
- It is a cultural exchange between families – NOT a vacation – and it WILL be a life-changing experience for both your high schooler and your family

Why consider a family-to-family short-term exchange through Rotary?

- **Global Support Network** - Over 1.2MM members in over 45,000 clubs.
- **Personal Support** — **Your** son or daughter is sponsored by an SW MI club here and a club in another country, with multiple contacts in both countries at club and district levels.
- **Low Cost** — **Rotary** is a volunteer organization, therefore the cost of the program is very affordable.
- **Local Immersion** — **Your** son or daughter will be living with a native host family, immersed in their language and culture. They gain multicultural understanding, making them seasoned world citizens and providing resume experience.
- **High Standards** — Students are ambassadors for the US and Rotary, held to high standards. Training, rules and codes of conduct are in place to ensure successful exchanges.
- **Safety** — Every Rotarian and host family participating in exchange programs is fully vetted, background checked and trained to ensure student safety throughout his/her exchange.

Who can be a STEP F2F host family?

- YOU can, or someone you know, who has a high school student aged 15–18.5 wanting to do a F2F exchange
- You are NOT required to be a Rotarian
- Host families will be fully vetted by Rotary Youth Program members, including a background check, pictures of home, interviews and home visits
- Host families receive significant support from the local Rotary club contact and STEP Coordinator
- Rotary Club members may assist with transportation, visits to community events, and/or visits to area events (e.g., college/professional sports games, Michigan tourist attractions).

What are a host family's requirements?

- Central States Host Family application and F2F Student application
 - Pictures of Home
 - References – 2 (non-family)
 - Background Check – InCheck – everyone in home > 18 years
 - Complete Youth Protection Awareness module – everyone in home > 18
 - STEP Coordinator visits home – files report in Rotary's YEAH database
 - All Above Completed = APPROVAL!
 - Now the family may start to communicate with the student!
- Host Family will receive Host Family manual, and participate in an orientation with other Host Families prior to student arriving

How to be a good host family?

- Work with your student on the native language. Most international students arrive very fluent, but want to learn the local lingo.
- Do some traveling, even if close to home.

- Show them your favorite customs, foods, stores, places – a trip to the grocery store is a cultural experience!
- Treat them like family, not a guest. Have them help with chores and family responsibilities.

How does Rotary vet volunteers?

- Application with 2 personal references
- Criminal Background Check
- Youth Protection Awareness
- US Volunteer Training
- US Department of State Training on Rules & Regulations
- Process is through Central States Rotary Youth Exchange

How much does a F2F exchange cost?

- Round-trip flight
- \$250 STEP fee (includes travel insurance, orientation and DB fees) per student
- Spending money for your child while in his/her exchange country abroad
- Each host family (in the outbound country and your family in Michigan) covers the cost of food and lodging and transportation while on exchange, and each Rotary club (host and sponsor) contributes to the multicultural experiences while in country.

STEP Application Process for F2F

Oct – Dec: Applications reviewed for completeness and eligibility.

Jan – Mar: Student and parent interviews conducted. For each applicant accepted, Rotary volunteers assign the sponsoring local Rotary Club.

Jan – Apr: Rotary volunteers work on matching each applicant for their international F2F exchange or available Rotary country camp.

Mar – Jul: Pre-exchange orientation and guiding each applicant through the pre-exchange preparation steps.

Apr – Sep: Sponsoring Rotary clubs schedule required pre-and post-exchange visits with their sponsored student and parents whereby each STEP student is welcomed by their sponsoring club and sent off with Rotary swag, and each STEP student returns to give a presentation to their sponsor club about their multicultural experience.

How do we apply?

- To APPLY for a short-term family-to-family exchange, the high school student must complete their application here: <https://yehub.net/CEN-stapp>
- And their parent(s) must complete their host family application here: <https://yehub.net/CEN-hfapp>

Still questions? Contact us

STEP D6360 Coordinator STEP School Liaison

Cathy Jo Mattson Danielle Plichta

cathyjomattson@gmail.com djplichta@lpslancer.net

Cell: 901-218-0192 Cell: 269-491-0800

Please consider becoming a F2F host family

- Opening Your Home
- Opening Your Heart
- Facilitating the change
- Facilitating peace and understanding

Young Leaders Corner — Youth Exchange Programs



October District Newsletter Rotary Youth Exchange

I'll send pictures from my phone.

ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES!

The ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE Team is looking for students to apply for a \$24,000 (estimated) Scholarship to study abroad in 2027-28! It's not too late to apply! The Deadline to apply is October 31. However, students should apply to their Rotary Club ASAP! Students must be 15 – 18 years old by August, 2027, should be in the top one-third of the class academically, and have a desire to learn and live a different culture. District interviews will be Sunday, November 8, with the student and their parents. For more information contact Marsha Bassett, District Outbound Coordinator, at email: bassett@msu.edu, Cell: 269-998-2829, or Margie Haas, District Chair, Email: haasmargie@gmail.com; Cell: 269-838-3392.

HOST CLUBS WANTED – DEADLINE OCTOBER 25, 2026 FOR 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR!

Will your club be a Host Club for an Inbound Student in 2027-28? **NOW** is the time to commit to being a Host Club. Why so early? Our correspondents are connecting now with other countries and are making plans and commitments for 2027-28. If we don't tell them we'll take a student (and it's a firm commitment) students are placed in other countries.

Bonus: When your club commits to be a Host Club, you may state your preference for the country and gender.

Clubs that commit now have until January 31, 2027, to find the first host family. Then the second host family is identified by April 30. This process speeds up the student's J-1 Visa application process.

Please let Margie Haas know ASAP if your club will host for 2027-28 school year!!

Golden Trowel Award — Nominations now being accepted

Golden Trowel Award — Nominations now being accepted

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to your club's project and is NOT a Rotarian?

How about thanking them by nominating that person(s) for the Rotary District 6360 Foundation Golden Trowel Award?

Rotary District 6360 Foundation (RD6360F) annually awards up to four (4) Golden Trowel Awards to non-Rotarian individuals or groups who have made a major contribution to a Rotary project.

The award will be presented at an event of the Rotary Club that made the nomination.

REMEMBER:

*The nominee must be a Non-Rotarian

*The nominee may be a person, non-profit organization, business, church, group of individuals, or government agency.

*The nominee must have made a significant contribution to a specific Rotary-sponsored project/event

[Click here to download and fill-in form](#)

The nomination application is a writable form; the file can be saved to your computer. Just fill out the form and send or email the completed form to [Gene Svebakken](#) District 6360 Foundation Trustee (contact information is listed at the top of the form.)

The deadline for nomination submissions is November 30, 2026. Nominations are accepted from October 1–November 30th.

No late submissions are accepted.

TRF Matching Grants Campaign — Double your Impact

Amy Lee, Rotary District 6360, Past-President Sturgis Rotary Club, DRFC

September 2, 2026

Corporation Matching - Double My Impact with The Rotary Foundation – Annual Fund Share

While recently reviewing available benefits through my employer, I discovered a matching program for donations to identified 501c3 charities. Within a few seconds I found that The Rotary Foundation was listed as a preferred charity and all donations up to \$15,000 per year would be match dollar for dollar. Who knew?

The process to receive a matching contribution from my employer to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) was simple, but took a few months to be distributed:

1. I made an online contribution of \$2000 to The Rotary Foundation, Annual Fund-Share.
2. I received an email receipt for my donation.
3. TRF was already an approved charity through my employers matching program.
4. Submitted an online request to my employer for matching funds.
5. Attached my receipt for donations.
6. Identified my employer as a donor within my Rotary Club.
7. Waited patiently for 2 to 3 months.
8. Received notification that the requested matching donation was approved, and funds were distributed to TRF.
9. Asked the Sturgis Rotary Club - The Rotary Foundation Chair to verify the matching contributions were received.
10. Made plans for next year to have my company match donations to my charity of choice, The Rotary Foundation – Annual Fund Share

What I found was my company matches donation by the employees to a wide array of nonprofits including: educational institutions, art and cultural organizations, food banks, radio stations, and even The Rotary Foundation.

For corporation this is beneficial so that they can show that they care about giving back, improves their public image, encourages employees to be charitable, and shows appreciation to the employee that their charity of choice is recognized.

I discussed this matching program with our Human resources Department, and found that few employees were aware of the charity donations matching and only a small percentage of the employee's submitted requests for funds.

Be sure to check with our employer to see if you can double your impact and donations to The Rotary Foundation- Annual Fund Share, and maybe even to your Club's or the District 6360 Foundation.

Membership Club Growth

Rotary District 6360 Membership

St. Joseph & Benton Harbor 80	85	+5
Portage 73	77	+5
Kalamazoo 114	118	+4
Hillsdale 35	38	+3
Delton Area 56	58	+2
Dowagiac 27	29	+2
Harbor Country 64	66	+2
Union City 29	31	+2
Williamston 48	50	+2
Coldwater Township Sunrise 63	64	+1
Charlotte - Evening 21	22	+1
Gull Lake Area 38	39	+1
Ionia 15	16	+1
Plainwell 13	14	+1
South Lansing-Holt 19	20	+1
Three Rivers 51	52	+1
Vicksburg 34	35	+1
Cereal City - Sunrise 35	35	Even
Climax 22	22 9	Even
Constantine 9	50	Even
Delta Township 59	25	Even
East Lansing 25	34	Even
Eaton Rapids 34	10	Even
Fennville Pullman Lakeshore 10	41	Even
Grand Ledge 41	16	Even
Greater Niles 16	75	Even
Hastings 75	35	Even
Haslett-Okemos 35	28	Even
Jackson 28	24	Even
Jackson- Breakfast 24	23 9	Even
Jonesville 23	17	Even
Litchfield 9	16	Even
Oshtemo 17	14	Even
Otsego 16	14	Even
Paw Paw Area 14	67	Even
Paw Paw Lake 14	30	Even
South Haven 67	40	Even
St. John 30	19	Even
Albion 41	57	-1
Allegan 20	34	-1
Battle Creek 58	31	-1
Benton Harbor- Sunrise 35	38	-1
Lakeshore (Baroda-Stevensville) 32	40	-1
Mason 39	26	-1
Saugatuck-Douglas 41	64	-1
Berrien Springs-Eau Claire 28	145	-2
Charlotte 66	27	-2
Lansing 147	15	-2
Middleville 30	50	-3
Sturgis 18		-3
Marshall 54		-4

BHAG = GOAL

2092 by 6/30/27

Or +100 in 2026-27

Membership (+12):

2004 on 9/27/26

- Invite a Vet

-Invite Your Friends

-Invite Your

Coworkers

-Invite Your Spouse

-Invite Your BFF

-Invite Your

Significant Other

-Invite Your Neighbor

-Invite Your Boss

-Invite Your Family

We Can Do This!!!

+12 Right Now

7/1/26 Total Membership 1992 2004 = +12 9/27/26 Membership

The Rotary Mirror — Progress for the Parks



Stephanie gave updates on many exciting projects that are in the works for the city. A major one is a community splash-pad that is being considered for Bennett Park. It would be an interactive pad with a variety of different activities and zones that kids could enjoy. It is projected to cost over \$350,000 and annual maintenance would likely range from \$20-30,000. With that financial

commitment, they are looking into funding options and this could be a project for our Club to look into. Stephanie also discussed,

- a. a potential dog park that could fit nicely at Dean Park
- b. the possibility of converting the old ice rink into pickleball courts by the sledding hill
- c. Oak Park will have its grand reopening ceremony on Friday, August 28th.
- d. Grant opportunities for
 - Tree Nursery
 - Recycling building renovation

District 6360 Seeking new District Treasurer



Contact [DG Tim Lee](#) for additional information.

A special learning session discussing the District Treasurer's role was held virtually on Sept. 14th — featuring District Treasurer Gregg Guetschow.

Click [here](#) to launch the video.

Interested in finances, organization, or helping Rotary operate effectively? Learn what it takes to serve as a District Treasurer and the skills you can bring to this important role, [contact DG Tim Lee](#).

Read about the District Treasurer's duties and responsibilities below.

[Read More](#)

DACdb Learning Sessions



If you haven't already, please register for the upcoming virtual meetings for the DACdb Learning Sessions. These sessions will be tailored to your needs and questions and help you understand how to use the DACdb system to manage your club. All sessions start at 7:00PM and are on the Zoom platform. The zoom links are available on each registration page.

[Register NOW](#) for **DACdb Learning Sessions: Together We Learn - VIRTUAL** for Oct 27th - Topic 'EZStories and EZ Bulletins'

[Register NOW](#) for **DACdb Learning Sessions: Together We Learn - VIRTUAL** for Nov 24th - Topic 'Club Leadership set up, RI Integration and Committee set up'

[Register NOW](#) for **DACdb Learning Sessions: Together We Learn - VIRTUAL** for Jan 26, 2027 - Topic 'DACdb Ignite, Financial'

If you have any questions, please contact DAA [Gwen](#)

Gwen's Pen - October



Gwen's Pen — Halloween according to AI

Halloween began more than 2,000 years ago with the pre-Christian Celtic festival of Samhain. For Celtic adults, October 31 wasn't a time for casual fun; it marked the end of the harvest and the start of a brutal winter.

- **Spiritual Protection:** Adults believed the boundary between the living and the dead blurred on this night.
- **Ritual Disguises:** To avoid being targeted by vengeful spirits walking the earth, adults wore costumes made of animal heads and skins as a survival tactic.
- **Souling and Mumming:** In the Middle Ages, the tradition shifted to "souling" and "mumming". Poor adults and children would go door-to-door, offering prayers or songs for the dead in exchange for "soul cakes" or drink.

2. The Victorian Era: Parlor Games and Romance

When Irish and Scottish immigrants brought Halloween traditions to America in the mid-19th century, the holiday underwent a drastic transformation. Influenced by Victorian sensibilities, 19th-century communities actively stripped Halloween of its frightening, supernatural overtones to make it a polite social holiday.

For young adults in the late 1800s, Halloween became a night for **parlor parties, matchmaking, and romantic divination:**

- * Young women played games with apple parings, mirrors, or yarn, believing the results would reveal the name or face of their future husbands.
- * Parties for adults featured bobbing for apples, dancing, and seasonal foods like nuts and pumpkins.

3. The 1930s "Black Halloween" and the Pivot to Children

By the early 20th century, adult and adolescent participation in Halloween took a destructive turn. The holiday became synonymous with severe pranks and vandalism. During the Great Depression, this mischief escalated into widespread urban destruction. On October 31, 1933—known as **"Black Halloween"**—adults and rowdy youths caused chaos across American cities, flipping cars, destroying property, and cutting power lines.

To stop the violence, civic leaders and parents consciously **"domesticated" the holiday**. They moved celebrations off the streets and into the hands of children by popularizing trick-or-treating in the new suburbs of the 1940s and 1950s. For a few decades, Halloween was firmly branded as a children's holiday.

4. The Modern "Re-Adultification" of Halloween

Starting in the 1970s and 1980s, adults began aggressively reclaiming the holiday, turning it into the massive commercial event it is today.

Several key cultural shifts drove this modern adult revival:

***The LGBTQ+ Community:** Major public events like the famous New York Greenwich Village Halloween Parade (started in 1974) were deeply rooted in queer culture, offering a liberating space for adults to express themselves through elaborate, creative costuming.

***Pop Culture & Satire:** Costumes shifted away from traditional monsters (witches and vampires) to political satire, celebrities, and movie characters.

***The "Escapism" Economy:** Today, the industry explicitly targets adults with horror movies, massive bar crawls, elaborate home decorations, and high-end costume parties, making Halloween a multi-billion dollar playground for all ages.

I hope you can all find your own connection to Halloween and enjoy the magic of the day.



rotarydistrict6360@gmail.com

Contact me if you have any questions about my stories. I am here to help you!

[Read More](#)

Guest Speaker Resource

The District is currently organizing a resource to help clubs enrich their meetings or events by providing a guest speaker resource index. Clubs can invite guest speakers on this list to present at their club meetings or events. Clubs are encouraged to add information to our Guest Speaker Resource Index or to contact the speakers listed for your next club event. Please click [here](#) to access the Google document. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Gwen at rotarydistrict6360@gmail.com

How to submit newsletter stories

District newsletters are intended to be published on the 1st (District focused issue) and 15th (Club focused issue) of each month — except for weekends and holidays.

If you have an item you'd like to submit for the newsletter, please submit it at least three days prior to the publication date.

Submissions should be sent to:

RotaryDistrict6360@gmail.com

Subject line: "month" Newsletter submission

We welcome graphics! Please make sure that the graphics are in the PNG, or GIF format.

All word documents or PDFs need to be converted to PNG or JPG formats.

If you need to convert a document or file, visit a website like Canva to utilize free file converters. Click [here](#) to open Canva.

Please note: do not email photos or graphics directly from your smartphone. There is hidden metadata (EXIF which affects orientation data) that does not convert easily without time and effort on my part. Please save the photo images to your laptop and send them as a jpg or a png.

Items can be news from your club, projects, events, and fun things!

Thanks for helping make our District newsletter entertaining and newsworthy!

Events

October 3rd, 8:30-9:30 AM

[AG Monthly Zoom Meeting with DG Tim](#)

October 11th, 7:00-8:00 PM

[DG Line/DAA Monthly Zoom Meeting with DG Tim](#)

October 14th, 7:00-8:00 PM

[Club Presidents-Elect Monthly Zoom Meeting](#)

October 26th, 7:00-8:00 PM

[District RI Foundation Committee Meeting](#)

District website <https://www.district6360.com/>

October 8th, 7:00-8:00 PM

[Club President Monthly Zoom Meeting with DG Tim](#)

October 13th, 9:00-10:00 AM

[DCO Monthly Meeting](#)

October 21st, 6:30-7:30 PM

[DISC Virtual Meeting](#)

October 27th, 7:00-8:00 PM

[DACdb Learning Sessions: Together We Learn — VIRTUAL](#)

District Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict6360/>