

Rotary District 6360



District Newsletter 2024-25 | Mark Odland, Governor

Southwest Michigan, USA

MAY 9,
2025

District Conference Highlights

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The Magic of Rotary rolled into South Haven on Friday, May 2nd, when we gathered at the Michigan Maritime Museum for our annual District Conference. Over 300 attendees participated in this event where they experienced the Magic of Big Blue, celebrated our clubs' incredible results, honored our Rotary HEROES, heard from world-class thought leaders, caught up with old friends, made some new connections, and danced the night away at a live concert by the famous Bluewater Kings. What an incredible weekend to enjoy a few days in "beach town" where life moves just a little slower.

Here is what you might have missed at the District Conference.

[Click here](#)

Visit Rotary 6360 Facebook page to view more pictures of the event.

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

Hero Recognition



The Rotary Heroes Recognition 2025 was presented on May 3rd at the District Conference held in South Haven, honoring individuals for their exceptional contributions to their communities and embodying Rotary's motto "Service Above Self."

Key Hero 2025 themes include:

- *Community Impact:* Heroes like Dr. Dan Wrubel (Eaton Rapids) and Kelly Hostetler (Three Rivers) are recognized for their tireless advocacy and service projects benefiting local and international communities.
- *Leadership and Innovation:* Leaders such as Ariel Backus (Grand Ledge) and Denise White (Williamston) are praised for their fresh perspectives and ability to drive impactful initiatives.
- *Youth Engagement:* Individuals like Marla Ekola (Haslett-Okemos) and Nick Boyd (Kalamazoo) are honored for their dedication to empowering young leaders through programs like Interact and Scouting.
- *International Service:* Heroes such as Sally Ernst (Lakeshore) and Dr. Dan Wrubel (Eaton Rapids) are celebrated for their global humanitarian efforts, including literacy programs and medical missions.
- *Dedication to Rotary Values:* Many heroes, including Jennifer Marsh (Lansing) and Roy Dangel (Portage), are recognized for their long-term commitment to Rotary's 39 values and operational excellence.

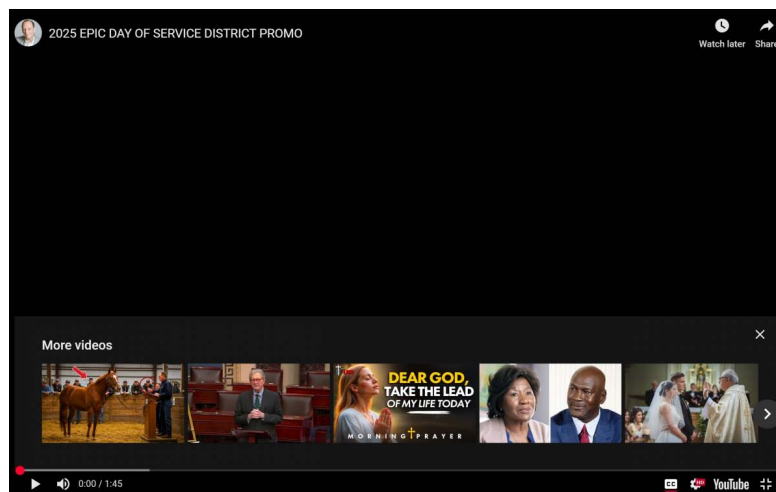
Rotary Heroes recognized in District 6360 are:

1. Albion: **Dr. John Williams** - "Money Man does it all"

2. Battle Creek: **Kathy Gallagher and Kelli Scott** - "Super Transition Team"
3. Benton Harbor Sunrise: **Cindy Kinney** - "Doing It All"
4. Berrien Springs/Eau Claire: **Rhiannon Cizon** - "Full of Creative Energy and Unrelenting Drive"
5. Cereal City Sunrise: **Cassie Scramlin** - "Rotary Promoter"
6. Charlotte: **Barbara Fulton** - "Articulate Community Inspirator"
7. Climax: **Robert Scherer** - "A True Rotarian"
8. Coldwater Township Sunrise: **Kathy Merrill** - "Rotary Champion"
9. Delta Waverly: **Larry Ewing** - "Long-term Dedicated Rotarian"
10. Delton Area: **Wyoma Smith** - "Money! Money! Money!"
11. Dowagiac: **Jennifer Ray** - "Shining Light"
12. East Lansing: **Mark Henne** - "Energetic, Loyal, Reliable"
13. Eaton Rapids: **Dr. Dan Wrubel** - "A Vision for a Better Future"
14. Grand Ledge: **Ariel Backus** - "Chicken Whisperer"
15. Gull Lake Area: **Kim Lewis** - "Ambassador for Rotary"
16. Harbor Country: **Tom Rosenbluth** - "Rotarian of All Trades"
17. Haslett-Okemos: **Marla Ekola** - "Energetic Catalyst for Young Leaders"
18. Hastings: **Chelsey Foster** - "Active Community Leadership"
19. Jackson Breakfast: **Brent and Barbara Southwell** - "Breakfast Club Family"
20. Kalamazoo: **Nick Boyd** - "Activator for Reigniting Interact"
21. Lakeshore: **Sally Ernst** - "International Rotarian Champion"
22. Lansing: **Jennifer Marsh** - "Dedicated Leader"
23. Marshall: **Jack Reed** - "Service Project Guy"
24. Mason: **Melody Bennett** - "Energizer Bunny"
25. Oshtemo: **Gary Heckman** - "Creating Positive Ripple Effects"
26. Otsego: **Jason Smith** - "Service with a Smile"
27. Paw Paw Lake: **Scott Krenek** - "I Will Find Time"
28. Portage: **Roy Dangel** - "Service for a Cause, Not Applause"
29. South Haven: **Ross Woodhams** - "Ross Does it All!"
30. St. Johns: **Becky VanCamp** - "Take the Bull by the Horns"
31. St. Joseph/Benton Harbor: **Renee Borah** - "Ready & Reliable"
32. Sturgis: **Ondrej Seibert** - "Brave Beyond Borders"
33. Three Rivers: **Kelly Hostetler** - "Tireless Advocate"
34. Union City: **Rachael Keller** - "Hometown Hero"
35. Vicksburg: **Michael Wunderlin** - "Mr. Positivity"
36. Williamston: **Denise White** - "Solution Generator".

[Read More](#)

Epic Day of Service



Congratulations to the following Clubs which will be participating in The Epic Day of Service!

- 1) Refresh Rotary Band Shell; Clean up Rayner Park
Club: Mason
Location: Rayner Park, Mason, MI 48854, USA
Date: April 12, 2025
- 2) Kalamazoo River Cleanup | May 17
Club: Kalamazoo
Location: 251 Mills St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048, USA
Date: May 17, 2025
- 3) Support the Steelheaders Tournament 2025
Club: South Haven
Location: South Haven, MI 49090, USA
Date: May 17, 2025

[Read More](#)

Young Leaders Month



What's Up with Developing Young Leaders?

May is Youth Service/Young Leaders Month
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUNG LEADERS!

Rotary District 6360 Youth Programs Mission Statement:
"Empowering Young Leaders while growing the Rotary Family."

1. RYLA Camp: Registration is OPEN for all high school students to attend RYLA Camp 2025. Camp dates: July 11-13, 2023. Registration closes May 31. Let's have every club send at least two (2) campers!



Camp Cost: \$250/camper. BOGO for one camper per club.

Recommended Action: Talk with your high school personnel to find at least two (2) freshmen, sophomores and/or juniors that have leadership potential. Give the counselors/high school staff the registration link so students can apply for the camp. Clubs will be notified when a student has completed the application for your approval.

Promotional brochure:

<https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6360/Downloads/0/RYLA%20Information%20Folder/2025%20Bro>

How to register? All campers register through the District Rotary 6360 website <https://www.district6360.com/ryla/> See instructions on the website.

2. THIRD ANNUAL DISTRICT INTERACT WAS AWESOME!!

Interactors from around the district met at Lake Michigan College, South Haven campus on May 2. Interact Council members led the day with Keynote speaker Renwick Ballew, a Rotary Youth Exchange Student to Japan, breakout sessions on RYLA Camp, Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotaract, and How to Start Your Own Mission Trip. Student made over 30 blankets to be donated to Corewell Health hospitals around the district for patients in chemotherapy and pediatric patients. Thanks to our Young Leaders!

3. Rotary Student Program – 17 Rotarians shared information on their profession during a "Career Speed Dating" event during the Rotary District Conference. Although the time was limited, students and Rotarians experienced a little about the benefits of learning more about a career that they may want. For more information, contact Becky Foster, District Rotary Student Program Chair: email: fosterstutoring@gmail.com, Cell phone: 269-313-0013.

4. Rotary Youth Exchange – Will you open your home to a young person? We're looking for ONE (1) Rotary club to find a family to host a student in 2025-26. A host family has the student for one semester and then moves to a second host family. This Rotary model usually allows the student to experience different American family lifestyles. Host families do not have to be Rotarians.

For more information on "Becoming a Host Family" visit our website: <https://www.district6360.com/rotary-youth-exchange/>

- Boy from Denmark needs a host club and family! Holger, 16 years old, plays soccer and likes to swim. His family lives on a 1,200-acre pig farm. His English is good. Please let Margie Haas, district chair, or Cooper Frost, district Inbound Coordinator, know if your club is interested. Margie: haasmargie@gmail.com; Cooper: frost.cooper@outlook.com

South Haven Salmon Service Project



South Haven Rotarians joined fourth and fifth graders from North Shore elementary school in planting salmon fingerlings in the Black River on Wednesday, May 7. The planting was the culmination of an annual project. The life of the fish started as spawned eggs which hatched into immotile larvae and eventually fingerlings large enough for planting. The project is accomplished using shillars donated by South Haven Rotary and the South Haven Steelheaders. Students placed the fingerling into the river one-by-one, assisted by Rotarians. Hopefully, in years to come, they'll grow into 20-pound-plus salmon that ply the Lake Michigan waters.



[Read More](#)

Rotary Direct Wrap Up

Rotary Direct Giving Campaign Wraps Up

Thanks to 24 generous Rotarian donors from 17 clubs, District 6360 has a 32% increase in the number of members signed up for Rotary Direct. This represents new gifts totaling more than \$7,000! Way to go Rotarians for your support for the Rotary Foundation.

These individuals earned recognition points matching their donations and pledges. A step closer to becoming a Paul Harris Fellow!

Rotary Direct is the simplest way for you to do good in the world! You have three ways to sign up for Rotary Direct;

- online at myrotary.org,
- by mail
- or by phone.

You decide your giving level - the minimum is \$10. You decide your giving frequency - monthly, quarterly or annually. You decide to use either your credit card or automatic withdrawal from a bank account.

Questions?

Call or email Teresa Brandell at 517-242-0125/teresambrandell@gmail.com
or Kathy Gallagher at 269-209-5949/kgallagher@bcacs.org.

ROTARY DIRECT

Rotary's recurring giving program

Scan QR code
to sign up
for Rotary
Direct online.



There are three ways to enroll in Rotary Direct:

Online: my.rotary.org/en/rotary-direct

By mail: Rotary Direct, 17th Floor, Annual Giving
Rotary International
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA

By phone: +1-866-976-8279

Manage your recurring giving at any time by signing in to My Rotary and clicking on My Account, then selecting My Donations.

Council on Legislation

By Nathan Andrew Triplett



Every three years, representatives from each Rotary district across more than 200 countries and territories gather in Chicago for the Council on Legislation ("COL")—Rotary's parliament. The COL considers enactments—proposed changes to Rotary's Constitution, Bylaws, and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution—submitted by clubs, districts, and the Rotary International Board of Directors. The deliberations are simultaneously interpreted in English, French, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish. PDG Nathan Triplett from the Rotary Club of Lansing represented District 6360 at the most recent COL, which was held April 14-16.

The 2025 COL considered 86 enactments. Thirty-one enactments (36%) were adopted, forty-eight (56%) were rejected or withdrawn, four (5%) were referred to the RI Board of Directors for further consideration, and three (3%) were postponed indefinitely.

Among the most notable enactments adopted were:

- Decreasing the number of members needed to charter a new Rotary club from 20 to 15.

- Approving an increase in dues paid to Rotary International in 2027-2028, 2028-2029, and 2029-2030. Dues will increase by \$3.50, \$3.75, and \$3.75 respectively.
- Permitting the RI Board of Directors to consider factors such as culture and language, not just the number of Rotarians, in drawing zone boundaries.
- Eliminating the requirement of holding a district conference annually. Instead, districts will be allowed to choose for themselves whether to hold a conference.
- Renaming the President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) to the President-Elect Learning Seminar (PELS) and the District Training Assembly to the Club Leadership Learning Seminar.
- Empowering the RI Board of Directors to instruct a club to terminate the membership of a Rotarian or Rotaractor.
- Providing a uniform process for removing Rotary officers and committee members for cause.

Among the most notable enactments rejected were:

- Limiting the number of honorary members in a club.
- Setting an age limit for Rotaractors.
- Imposing a term limit on the RI General Secretary.
- Imposing a term limit on Council on Legislation representatives.
- Several proposed amendments to the Object of Rotary and the Avenues of Service.

Rotarians may view the full voting results [here](#). Enactments approved by the 2025 COL will become effective at the start of the next Rotary year (2025-2026) on July 1, 2025.

District 6360 Rotarians with questions about the 2025 COL, any of the enactments that were considered, or the COL generally should feel free to reach out to PDG Nathan.

[Read More](#)

Attention Assistant Governors, Club Presidents, and Club Project Coordinators



Did you know that your club can borrow District promotional items like banners, event canopies, a corn hole board set, sound systems and more?

It's easy to do, and we could help deliver items to you to help you facilitate your next service project or event. (Pictured above are a few examples.)

1. Open this [link](#) to view a calendar in Google sheets spreadsheet.
2. Click on the second tab named "Borrow" in the spreadsheet. Tabs are located and labeled at the bottom of the sheet.
3. Items are listed in the top row of the spreadsheet.
4. Select the available dates (listed in the first column) that coordinate with your event - remember to allow time for delivery and returning items.
5. Select the items that you wish to borrow.
6. Enter the information in the coordinating row (such as event date and time, club, etc.)
7. Schedule delivery (and return) with your Assistant Governor.

**If you don't see an item that you want, please contact rotarydistrict6360@gmail.com
We might have what you need in our storage facility located in Kalamazoo.**

**Any questions or concerns?
Reach out to Gwen at 517-604-6360
or the email above.**

*Also, if your club is interested in purchasing canopies or banners, etc.
DGE Jackie Huie has collected resources, vendors, and quotes for your convenience;
listed in the first tab of the spreadsheet.*

We are here to help!

Membership Growth April

Submitted by Mike Gallagher

+ 86

OUR GOAL IS +100 WE CAN DO IT!

[Visit the RYLA webpage](#)



Submissions welcome to District Newsletter

District newsletters are published the first of each month (focusing on District news and events) and the 15th of each month (focusing on club news and events).

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

RotaryDistrict6360@gmail.com

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

Items can be news from your club, projects, events, and fun things! Thanks for helping make our District newsletter great!

Events

May 12th, 5:30-6:30 PM
[2025-2026 Club President Essentials](#)

May 13th, 6:30-7:15 PM
[Club Presidents' Meeting](#)

May 31st, 9:00-12:00 PM
[Club Leadership Assembly](#)