



Register for Spring Learning by February 25



Join Rotarians from across the district for **Spring Learning 2026** - two days of inspiration, leadership development, and Rotary fellowship. **There's no cost to attend**, but registration is required.

University of Illinois at Springfield

Friday, March 6 & Saturday, March 7, 2026

Friday (Presidents-Elect):

Check-in starts at **11 a.m.** | Learning **11:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.**

Dinner & cash bar: **6 to 8 p.m.**

Saturday (All Rotarians, including presidents-elect):

Check-in starts at **8:30 a.m.** | Sessions **9 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.**

Lunch included.

Register by February 25. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and strengthen your Rotary impact. [Click here to save your spot!](#)

Jon Looney to serve as district governor

Immediate Past District Governor Dan O'Brien is happy to announce that Jon Looney of the Rotary Club of Kewanee has been selected to serve as District Governor during the 2028-2029 Rotary year. Looney is the IT Manager and Security Officer for Union Federal Savings and Loan, where he is responsible for cybersecurity and network administration and support. Jon is a graduate of Western Illinois University and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Information Management.

Previously, Looney served as board member, vice president and president of the Rotary Club of Kewanee. He has a keen interest in education and has co-chaired his club's literacy project. He has served as a member of the board of trustees of Blackhawk College and as president of the Illinois Community College Trustee's Association. He recently received the 2025 Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois Volunteer of the Year Award.



Order tickets to Cubs-Cardinals game early and save!



Tickets - now on sale!

Event Overview - an early season game this year with a special guest!

Join us on **May 30 (6:15 pm)** at Busch Stadium for a matchup between the Cubs and Cardinals. With a limited window to sell tickets, the regular ticket price remains unchanged from recent years at **\$60**. However, if you [order online](#) or postmark your [mail-in order](#) by Opening Day (March 26, 2026), you will receive a 10% discount and pay

only **\$54** per ticket. This special price is well below the retail prices currently listed on mlb.com and ticket broker sites!

Our Ask - Please support literacy through baseball!

This event has generated more than \$600,000 to benefit Rotary Clubs in our region with literacy initiatives. Our goal is to sell all our consigned tickets this year and make over \$16,000 to help our local communities! There are approximately 1,700 Rotarians in District 6460. If only 500 of our members sold an average of two tickets each, we would sell out, and if we sold out early, we might be able to order some more tickets.

[Read More](#)

Growing membership for Rotary's 125th anniversary

Your District Membership Committee is dedicated to growing Rotary and helping achieve Rotary International's goal of increasing the number of Rotarians to 1.25 million by 2030, while keeping the number of Rotaractors above 125,000.

This growth goal aims to celebrate a significant milestone, Rotary's 125th anniversary, reflecting a century and a quarter of service, leadership, and friendship around the globe. Together, we aspire to cultivate a vibrant and diverse organization that accurately represents our core values and mission.



Developing new clubs is a key strategy for our membership growth. Learn more on the [Start a Club page](#) or reach out to District Membership Committee Chair [Neal Miller](#).

Help spread the word about these scholarships

Our district will award four \$3,000 District



Scholarships to college students for the 2026-27 academic year. The [online application](#) process is easy to complete on the district [website](#). The deadline for submission is May 31, 2026.

All eligibility criteria and requirements are included in the online application. Eligible applicants must have lived in, graduated from high school in, or currently go to a college, university, or vocational/trade school in Rotary District 6460. They must have already completed one year of college instruction with a minimum of 24 credit hours. The scholarship may be used for tuition, books, and college fees at a college,

university, or vocational/trade school in or outside District 6460 in Illinois and in other states. Applicants must not be Rotarians or relatives of Rotarians, but former Interact and current Rotaract members are eligible to apply.

[Read More](#)

RYLEA is coming April 10-12; who will you send?

Investing in young leaders can be a truly rewarding experience! The Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, happening on April 10-12, 2026, provides an excellent opportunity to tap into the youth in your community and shape the future of Rotary.

Selecting a student for RYLEA, whether it is your club's first year sponsoring or your 10th, can sound like a daunting task, but RYLEA is here to help! RYLEA Chair Sydney Hembrough said, "We do not want the selection process to be the reason your club misses out on the lasting impact of sponsoring a RYLEA student."



When thinking about the ideal RYLEA candidate, consider these common characteristics:

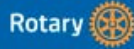
[Read More](#)

Unite for Good: A consistent message

Rotary's presidential message gives you an effective tool for telling your stories using a coordinated approach that complements Rotary's People of Action messages. *Unite for Good*, this year's presidential message, aligns with Rotary's strategic priorities and conveys the idea that we work together to make a meaningful difference in our communities and around the world.

For ideas about how to include this year's presidential message graphics in your club communications, download the [People of Action Sample Social Posts](#) and the *Unite for Good* [Presidential Message 2025 Sample Social Posts](#).

UNITE FOR GOOD



The meaning behind the purple pinky

If you've attended a Rotary event recently, you may have seen Rotarians—especially our District's exchange students—offering to paint pinky nails purple. For a small donation, often \$5, you can have your pinky painted. For \$10, you can *avoid* being painted and still support the cause. It's a fun and simple fundraiser, but many don't know the powerful meaning behind it.

Why purple?

Around the world, when children receive the life-saving oral polio vaccine, health workers mark their pinky finger with purple ink. In areas where literacy is low and recordkeeping is limited, this ink is essential—it tells volunteers which children have already been vaccinated so they can focus on those still at risk. The purple pinky is more than a symbol; it's a practical tool that helps frontline teams save time, stretch resources, and protect more children.



[Read More](#)
