



Speakers

December 04, 2025

Jo Welsh  
Bottoms Up Diaper  
Bank

December 11, 2025

Bill Grindle  
District 6690 Rotary  
Foundation

Events

December 6th

Ring the Bell for  
the Salvation Army

December 18th

Ring the Bell for  
the Salvation Army

Birthdays

Brian Folwarczny  
December 2nd

Mike Miller  
December 12th

Bryan D. Lane  
December 18th

Jenise N Lefevre  
December 18th

Club Leaders



John  
O'Connell  
President



Joanne  
Sexton  
President-  
Elect



John R.  
Jordan  
Treasurer



Jutta  
Reinold  
Secretary



Mike Miller  
Past  
President  
Club  
Membership  
Chair



Venkata  
Chari  
iPast  
President



Brian  
Folwarczny  
Club  
Director



Joseph  
Keaney  
Club  
Director

Bryan D.

This Week's Speaker:

Jo Welsh from Bottoms Up Diaper Bank

Jo Welsh is the co-founder and President of Bottoms Up Diaper Bank, and the driving force behind one of the largest diaper distribution networks in the nation. What began as a simple idea has blossomed—thanks to Jo's vision, grit, and tireless dedication—into a thriving nonprofit delivering over one million diapers each year to more than 80 community partners across 27 Ohio counties.

Jo and her husband, Tim, have been married for 47 years and are the proud parents of five children and grandparents to seven. They are lifelong parishioners at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Lancaster, where faith continues to be the foundation of their life and work.

Reminder:

People In Need Holiday Clearing House Coat Drive

The PIN Holiday Clearing House is celebrating its 71st anniversary this year and we are blessed to be part of it and running Coat Land, where each child is provided with a **brand-new** winter coat along with a hat and pair of gloves.

Please bring coats to the 12/4 or the 12/11 meetings or contact Alex Eikenberry (call/text 740-294-8297) to arrange for pickup

Shout-Out to Austin Meyer for being the first to donate this year!

Updated Coat Sizes Needed:

Girls: Medium 10/12, Large 14/16, XL 18/20

Boys: Small 7/8, Medium 10/12, Large 14/16, XL 18/20

If you already purchased coats in sizes not listed above - we still appreciate them and will graciously accept your donations.

Volunteer Opportunity:  
Salvation Army - Ring the Bell!  
12/6 and 12/18

For the holiday season, the Olentangy Rotary will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. We will be ringing at THE OLD KROGER in Powell on Powell Rd (NOT THE NEW ONE THAT WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON) We are looking for a total of 8 volunteers (2 per time slot). Please use the link below to sign up. We hope you can join us!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAEAC2AAFF2-60659821-rotary>

History of the Red Kettle

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome -- funding the project.

Where would the money come from, he wondered. He lay awake nights, worrying, thinking,



Lane  
Club Grant  
Coordinator  
Club TRF  
Chair



Jennifer T.  
Carney  
Triplett  
Club  
Service  
Projects  
Chair

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD



praying about how he could find the funds to fulfill his commitment of feeding 1,000 of the city's poorest individuals on Christmas Day. As he pondered the issue, his thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

## RYLA Club Commitment



### Club Sponsorship Commitment

#### Sponsor a future leader - Commit your club to RYLA 2026

District 6690's RYLA Committee needs your club's commitment to sponsoring students for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards on July 16–18, 2026 at Ohio University—Athens.

It will only take a minute to complete the short Club Commitment Form. Right now, no student names or sponsorship fees are due. The RYLA Committee just needs contact information and the number of students your club would like to sponsor.

The cost per student participant is \$300 which includes all lodging, meals and program materials for the three-day experience. Clubs sponsoring 5 or more students receive a \$50 discount per student.

Commit your club today to sponsor future leaders — it only takes a minute to complete the short Club Commitment Form (no student names needed yet):

#### [RYLA Club Commitment Form](#)

Key details:

- \$300 per student; payment due within 30 days of submitting the form
- Final student selections due April 1, 2026; outstanding payments due April 30, 2026
- Capacity is limited to 90 students, first come, first served with payment
- Please designate a RYLA Club Contact when you submit

Thank you for helping us inspire the next generation of service-minded leaders!

## Stronger Together

By Melinda K. Thompson



#### Union Local Welcomes 5 New Members



The Union Local Rotary Club is growing strong with the recent induction of five new members, boosting its active membership to 19.

This small but mighty group is making great strides to enhance its public image and visibility in the communities it serves. President Tim Snyder has challenged each member to select an area of focus and develop a service project, creating new opportunities to engage, collaborate, and unite for good.

#### Belmont County Rotarians Join Together for District Governor Visit

Rotarians from the St. Clairsville, St. Clairsville Morning, and Bridgeport clubs recently gathered for a special dinner in honor of District Governor Sandy

Knoesel's official visit.

The event was held at the enclosed Rotary Pavilion at the Capstone Pavilion Soccer Park—a beautiful community space that features a partial kitchen and fireplace. The pavilion serves as a hub for local

gatherings, exemplifying Rotary's spirit of fellowship and service.



### Barnesville Club Celebrates Peace Pole Installation



In a proud moment for the community, the Barnesville Rotary Club installed a Peace Pole in a prominent location in their town. The new addition symbolizes Rotary's commitment to peace and understanding.

Barnesville was recently recognized by Ohio Magazine as one of the "Best Hometowns for 2025–2026," making the Peace Pole an especially meaningful tribute to the club's ongoing efforts to promote goodwill.

### St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary Prepares for Annual 'Stuff the Truck' Project

The St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary Club is once again tackling food insecurity with its annual Stuff the Truck service project. Partnering with local businesses, the club collects nonperishable food items to support area food pantries. Through teamwork and community collaboration, the project helps ensure families have access to nutritious meals throughout the year.



### Bridgeport Club Organizes Successful Food Drive



The Bridgeport Rotary Club's food drive was a resounding success thanks to the generosity of local donors and volunteers. In addition to providing prepackaged groceries to residents in need, the club also collected monetary donations to further support families facing food insecurity—a challenge that has doubled in recent weeks.

Their efforts reflect Rotary's dedication to service above self and compassionate community response.

### St. Clairsville Rotarians Teach 4-Way Test to Elementary Students

As part of its Peace Project, members of the St. Clairsville Rotary Club brought lessons of ethics and kindness to local classrooms. Rotarians read Elmer and Andy's Apple Dumpling Adventure to 150 elementary students, introducing the Rotary 4-Way Test in a fun and meaningful way. To sweeten the experience, students enjoyed an apple dumpling as they learned about honesty, fairness, goodwill, and beneficial actions—values at the heart of Rotary.



Together, these clubs across Belmont County exemplify the theme Rotary: Stronger Together—demonstrating how collaboration, service, and community spirit unite Rotarians for lasting good.

## Four Rotary Clubs Unite for Good for Breast Cancer Patients



In a shining example of Service Above Self, four Rotary clubs — Chillicothe, Chillicothe First Capital, Circleville, and Circleville Sunrise — joined forces last month to bring hope and comfort to women fighting breast cancer.

More than 50 Rotarians, along with members of the Pink Pack Tribe, a support group of cancer survivors, came together to pack 200 "Boxes of Hope" filled with care items, encouragement, and love for breast cancer patients.

Items for the Boxes of hope are provided by the Nightbirde Foundation founded by Granville Rotarian Mitch Maczewski in memory of his sister Jane, known worldwide as Nightbirde. She inspired millions around the world with her song "It's OK" on America's Got Talent in 2021.

The idea for the collaborative project began at the Rotary District 6690 Conference last April, when attendees packed boxes for the Nightbirde Foundation. Inspired by that event and the foundation's mission, Berno saw an opportunity to bring the same light of hope to her own community.

"Mitch's message really touched our hearts," said Robin Berno, president of the Chillicothe First Capital Rotary Club. "Assistant Governor David Crawford suggested that the Circleville and Chillicothe clubs work together on a project. I took that and ran with it. We had about 50 people between the four clubs, plus the Pink Pack Tribe — incredible women who have survived breast cancer and now support others on that same journey."

[Read More](#)

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## Make a Direct Impact: Enroll in Rotary Direct for a Chance to Win \$1000



This month, our **Zone 30–31 Rotary Foundation team** launched a new contest encouraging Rotarians to make their giving simple, automatic, and impactful through **Rotary Direct**, and there's an exciting incentive to join!

New Rotary Direct participants will be entered into a drawing to **win \$1,000 cash and 1,000 Foundation Recognition Points**. The district with the largest percentage increase in Rotary Direct enrollees will also receive a **\$5,000 cash prize**. *(No Rotary funds are used for this competition.)*

The contest is called "**Direct Impact**" and runs through **January 1, 2026**. It makes supporting The Rotary Foundation easier than ever. Rotary Direct allows you to set up **monthly or quarterly contributions** from your credit card or bank account, starting at just **\$10 per month**.

At \$10 a month, you'll be both an **Every Rotarian, Every Year** participant and a **Sustaining Donor**. At \$84 per month, you'll qualify as a **Paul Harris Society** member, giving \$1,000 annually to help Rotary fund life-changing projects around the world. [Read More](#)

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## Celebration Honors Clubs for 2024-2025 Achievements



Club leaders from across District 6690 gathered recently at the Hofbräuhaus in Grandview to celebrate the achievements of Rotarians during the 2024-25 Rotary year. The festive evening highlighted the impact of strong leadership, dedicated service, and a shared commitment to Rotary's mission.

Immediate Past District Governor Gary Baker awarded 26 clubs with a Rotary International Certificate of Excellence for achieving at least 13 club goals. These goals included increasing membership, engaging members in sustainable service projects, contributing to The Rotary Foundation, building Rotary awareness in their communities, and maintaining an up-to-date strategic plan.

"I am thrilled to present these achievement awards to so many clubs in our district," Baker said. "Strong clubs are why we have a strong district. Congratulations to the club leaders and members for their exceptional achievements."

In addition to club recognitions, Baker presented Governor's Awards to three individuals and one club for outstanding leadership and service: **T.D. Griley Award – Fran Veverka (Delaware), for her tremendous service as district secretary more than 13 years,** [Read More](#)

## DG Message:

By Sandra Knoesel



karaoke suite

As district governor, I made a special effort to attend several PolioPlus fundraisers in our district last month as part of the World Polio Day celebration.

The celebrations began in Newark where the Newark, Newark-Heath, Granville, and Pataskala clubs joined together for Pilsners for Polio at Stockyard Grill, a new downtown restaurant.

Newark-Heath Rotary Club president Kirk Homrighouse and his wife, Laurie, welcomed guests wearing their "The End is Near For Polio" shirts they purchased at the District 6690 Fall Assembly.

Two days later, I joined the Westerville Rotary Clubs for a Smash Polio "Fun" raiser at the new Smash Park in Westerville.

This unique venue offers pickleball, corn hole, axe throwing, duckpin bowling and an arcade as well as a

A big thank you goes out to club presidents Dave Read and Jim Caldwell for teaming up the clubs for this event.



On Saturday, I started the day in Granville with club president Amy Huddleston for the Granville Rotary Chili Cookoff. After tasting some good and some really hot, HOT, chili, my favorite was the Vegan chili made by Assistant Governor Steve Thaxton and his son. The Granville Kiwanis made the crowd's overall favorite chili.



The day ended in Grove City with the Grove City Rotary Club's Bourbon, Blues and Barbeque fundraiser at JP's Barbeque located at Bolton Field. I thought I was in Nashville listening to J. Edwards and Blue Spectrum musicians. A special thank you goes to Rotary President Troy Green, and Mary and Larry Titus for a memorable evening. Proceeds from the night went to MASH – Military and Service Heroes and Rotary's End Polio initiative.

So where are we in our 40-year fight to eliminate this disease? Currently, Afghanistan has 9 reported wild poliovirus cases and Pakistan has 29 cases. There is a captivating video about Rotary's fight to end polio called "Right now, at this very moment" on rotary.org. I recommend you share the video with your family and friends at [https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md\\_QoGdGZmzev343UNc.jpg?1756502880](https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_QoGdGZmzev343UNc.jpg?1756502880).

Rotary International leaders recently visited Pakistan and met with government officials, who reaffirmed their commitment to polio eradication. The delegation included RI President Francesco Arezzo, Trustee Chair Holger Knaack, International PolioPlus Chair Michael K. McGovern, and aide to the president John de Giorgio. They were hosted by Aziz Memon, chair of the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee.



Everyone has a role in bringing about a polio-free world. Together, we **will** end polio.

### Club Meeting

Olentangy  
 Meets at Scioto Reserve Country Club  
 Scioto Reserve Country Club 7383 Scioto Pkwy  
 Powell, OH 43065  
 Time: Thursday at 07:30 AM

### District Leaders



[Sandra Knoesel](#)  
 District Governor