



Rotary Zones 30-31

Heart of America

*October, 2021*

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a grassroots, multi-district leadership development program whose mission is to strengthen Rotary clubs through quality leadership education. Districts participate in the RI Zones 30-31 Regional Leadership Institute – Heart of America Division.





# HOA-RLI — Board Members

RLI develops leaders!

Excellent leadership is the key to successful service to our communities and the world.

RLI was founded to improve Rotary knowledge and the leadership skills of future club leaders.

Rotary clubs depend on outstanding leadership to harness the talents and skills of their members to reach high levels of accomplishment.

This requires the constant effort to prepare more and more Rotarians for the responsibilities of leadership.

RLI develops leaders!

## Executive Board Members

Paul Bucurel — Chair

Tom Greene — Vice Chair

Mary Beth Revels — Secretary

Bo Porter — Treasurer

Eric Lewis — Registrar

## Board Members

Elizabeth Usovicz — Curriculum

Bo Porter — HOA-RLI Training Coordinator

Julie McCoy — Extension

Jerome Bannister — Materials and Supplies

Wade Drinkard — Procedures and Governance

Tom Greene — Nominating Committee

Jack McAllister — Coordinator, Districts 6540-6560-6580-6710-6740

Bill Shula — Coordinator, Districts 6600-6630-6650-6670-6690

Cindy Guthrie — Coordinator, Districts 6460-6490-6510

Jeff Romine — Coordinator, 6040-6060-6080-6150

Glen Vanderford — Coordinator, 6760-6780-6800-6860- 6880

Pamela Stewart — Coordinator, 6190-6200-6820-6840

Tom Greene — Technology and Communications

Jane Molloy — News Editor

(Note: Some members of the Board may hold more than one position.)



# HOA-RLI — Chair, Paul Bucurel

## The Hub Project

This year at the Zone conference the gathering place was going to be called the “Hub”. It was going to be different than the typical house of friendship where you find the booth host separated from the visiting crowd by a table and people idly move from one table to the next. It was going to be fun, entertaining, and Interactive.



The Heart of America Rotary leadership Institute was going to be part of that experience. However, due to covid-19 it never happened.

I had planned for my message that was going to appear in this issue of the newsletter to showcase our participation and the crowd response. So much for good intentions.

So many good members of our board volunteered to help in planning, creating and to be part of the experience, I thought that I would share what they created.

Some of the keys to attract people to your part of the hub were free, win, recognition, action, and affirmation with enough open space to make visitors feel welcome and comfortable. Our “Hub was designed around those ideas.

**Free** was a gift from The Heart of America Rotary leadership Institute, Logo identifying mints in a RLI tin. **Win** was giving away the 50” big screen smart TV that we used to play a video that included in a scroll all of the RLI graduates who at the conference and testimonials from some of those graduates.

The video also brought into play recognition and affirmation. **Action** incorporated new step and go signage, fresh RLI brochures and materials.

Everyone involved has my heartfelt thanks for making this project happen. I want to recognize the design team for their outstanding efforts in creating our “Hub”, I know that it was going to be a hit. A huge round of applause for Jane Molloy, Elizabeth Van Sant, Julie McCoy, Jerrome Bannister, Pamela Stewart, Tom Greene, Bo Porter and Greg Maciolek.

Some of their “products are below — the brochure and banner are attached.

*You guys are the best*

*Just wait until next year!*



Just . . .  
Sign in —  
and register —



Banners for TV drawing  
candy give-away  
push card

The brochure and banner are attached

## What about RLI?



We are **NOT**  
the  
**same-old RLI !!!**

Do you want to know  
more about the

## NEW RLI?



We have RLI  
sessions



In Person



Virtually

And even —

Across District lines!

Contact ???? for more  
information



# Regional Coordinator Reports

## DISTRICT 6740

### VIRTUAL ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REPORT

*Dean Hammond reporting.*

The third virtual Rotary Leadership Institute for District 6740 was held on Saturday, August 14 and 21, 2021, from 8:00 to 11:30 AM. Each day consisted of six 50-minute classes, three each for Parts I and II presented concurrently using two Zoom breakout rooms. We added 10 minutes to the class length based on feedback we received at the January 2021 RLI. Although we originally planned to offer Parts I, II, and III concurrently as we had done in January, only one Rotarian registered for part III, presumably because we had decided not to offer Part I in our initial virtual RLI in October 2020 and we had a limited pipeline for participants for Part III this time. For that reason, we cancelled Part III and agreed to allow the sole registrant (an RLI Coordinator from another District) to attend Part II as his primary purpose for attending was to observe our approach to delivering RLI on Zoom.

Initially 18 Rotarians registered, six from other Districts (D6580, D6840, D6920, D6510, and D6540), the rest from D6740. Two of the 18 (one from D6540, the other District 6920) failed to attend, one due to illness, the other due to a last-minute change of plans. Ten of the original 18 registrants signed up for Part I and 8 for Part II. Registration fees for Rotarians from Dist 6740 were paid by the District, thanks to support from District Governor Michael Noftsgger.

Eight Rotarians served as facilitators/instructors for the 12 classes, one from outside D6740. Sixteen registrants attended the session on August 14. Fifteen attended the session on August 21, one was unable to attend the session on as he experienced a stroke that morning, leaving 15 attendees that day. And, of course, we had no graduates this time as we didn't offer Part III.

We used the Zoom polling function to obtain course/facilitator evaluations at the end of each day, and we made progress on ensuring that the participant responses accurately reflected the courses they attended. Specifically, the polling function requires that participants have to respond to each question even those that don't apply to them. On August 14, we tried to get around that by offering a "Not Applicable" option, but some participants—based on the Ns of the responses—did not use that function correctly. On August 21, we had the participant groups respond separately, resulting in fewer errors the second time than on August 14. The courses for August 14 were rated an average of 3.45, with a low of 3.25 and a high of 3.75, on a scale of 1 for Poor and 4 for Excellent. The courses for August 21 were rated an average of 3.52, with a low of 3.0 and a high of 3.88. Participants rated the effectiveness of the virtual platform as 3.85 and the overall value of the first day's sessions (August 14) as 3.71. On January 30, the participants rated the value of the day's sessions as 3.78.

On August 21, participants were emailed an open-ended course evaluation form, asking them to provide more detailed information about their experiences at the virtual RLI. Eleven of the 15 participants who attended both days completed and returned the forms (a 73 percent response rate). Their composite responses appear on the following pages.

Based on these responses, we plan to offer RLI again, probably near the end of January 2022. Whether that will be Zoom only or a hybrid will depend on the prevalence of COVID-19 in our area.

*Submitted by Rotary District 6740 RLI Planning Committee: Jack McAllister, Dean Hammond, Martha Riddell, Judy Worth*      **Editor's Note: attachment showed the results of attendance survey — results were overwhelmingly "Excellent"!**



# Updating the Website

Pamela Stewart reporting

## WEBSITE Preparations

Where are we?

A design of the new site has been laid out

Core team review has been done

Vendor will provide us a draft of it in about a week

What's left to be done?

The new site will be driven by our data in the Database and Communications system

As needed, the files and updates will be constructed

The final step to implement the new system is moving the internet access from the old system to the new system.

Users will continue the same internet links as before to continue work uninterrupted

## DATA CONVERSION

WHERE ARE WE?

Two automated runs on Data Conversion into the new system have been completed. 95% of registrations have been implemented.

Individual member profiles show the transfers made

Some districts have been manually loaded-Examples D6540, D6840, D6780.

WHAT IS LEFT TO DO?

(Get the current students who have not completed all three parts loaded before implementation. Get others as soon as you can)

A copy of the current installed records will be provided to each coordinator as an aid to review it for correctness. There are mistakes and oversights

Data that did not load automatically will be loaded by the District Coordinators

Records in the old system that were changed after April 1<sup>st</sup> are still need updating. I will do that

Events not installed in the old system will be loaded by the District Coordinators

Events that will complete in the old system will be loaded for the districts by me. If I cannot load them, I will send to the District Coordinator)

Events that are open and currently in the old system at implementation will be handled by the registrar and the district coordinator at implementation.

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# Updating the Website (continued)

## *Where are we?*

- A design of the new site has been laid out
- Core team review has been done
- Vendor will provide us a draft of it in about a week

## *What's left to be done?*

- The new site will be driven by our data in the Database and Communications system
- As needed, the files and updates will be constructed
- The final step to implement the new system is moving the internet access from the old system to the new system.
- Users will continue the same internet links as before to continue work uninterrupted

## *Schedule of Completion*

### PRESENT

- Complete Configuration
  - Continue data cleanup
  - Continue information set up
  - Establish roles
- November 15th
- Evaluate operation and adjust
- December 15
- Discontinue old website

### September 15<sup>th</sup>

- Begin training window
- Complete data cleanup
- Complete information set up
- Establish financial interface
- Complete transfer of records for events after April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Set up financial interface

### October 15<sup>th</sup>

- Activate new website
- Register through new website
- Utilize Core Team to support



## Updating the Website (continued)

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The new Database and Communications system will replace our current method of registering for RLI classes, but it does much more. As an example:

The registration records become a working record system, giving everyone visible and accessible information. Students can see their progress and coordinators can easily update their records.

District Governors seeking candidates for leadership roles have access to RLI grads and facilitators to consider them for openings.

The new system makes separate recordkeeping unnecessary and facilitates a transition between district coordinators.

The new website is linked to the Database and Communications system with better and more timely updates and continues using the same web address to make the transition seamless.

A RLI training event has a check in process that helps match attendees at the event with registration and payment and also supports a voucher system for those unable to attend but have paid.

Credit is posted upon completion of a training event in the database and student's personal profile providing a timely flow of updated information.

Facilitators are included in the database to support scheduling their facilitations in planned classes and specific assignments of sessions.

Teams are identified with contact information and communications features to provide a means to work more closely

The financial record keeping is integrated with class registrations simplifying the documentation.

Training for key RLI roles is formalized to strengthen knowhow and consistency of use





# Congratulations Bo Porter!

## **SURPRISE! SURPRISE! SURPRISE!**

After approximately 35 years of Rotary membership, not much happens in Rotary to truly surprise me .... Not so on July 13, 2021 when I began reading e-mails for the day and opened a message, quoted below, from newly elected Chair of RLI International, PRIVP Mike McGovern. Quoting the beloved Gomer Pyle... Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! does not do the moment justice.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Rotary Leadership Institute, I am pleased to inform you that you are being recognized with the Michael Rabasca Outstanding Achievement Award at the RLI Annual Meeting to be held virtually on 8 September. The award was recently named for Michael Rabasca who was the long-time Executive Director from the beginnings of RLI to this past year when he retired shortly before his passing. The award was long known as the RLI International Outstanding Achievement Award. There have been 25 recipients of the award since 2010. This year we are providing this recognition to you and three others with two of the awards designated as 2020 awards and two as 2021 since no awards were given last year. This recognition is for your work both assisting the International RLI as well as your service in the Heart of America Division. “

Such recognition is indeed an undeserved honor. It is a recognition that should have gone to many, many Rotarians that have done more, given more, and served more effectively for RLI than this Rotarian. To this day, the “Why me” question remains unanswered!

To be named as one of four, and the only from USA, initial recipients of the newly renamed “Mike Rabasca Outstanding Achievement Award” is special. Mike, over the course of 14 -15 years, became a friend, mentor and highly respected RLI leader. His gentle manner and positive influence played a crucial role in the successful growth of this organization since it’s inception in 1992.

As shared in the acceptance comments, I truly believe there is no place for ‘individual’ recognition in Rotary. Yes, often one individual has an idea, a dream, a concept that is worthy of action but until that idea, dream or concept is embraced by others it will never happen! It is the team of committed, believing, hard serving individuals that surround the dreamer and share the dream that eventually achieve success. Said in different words...in my humble opinion, Teams deserve recognition and only very rarely, if at all, do individuals. Most times when recognition is given to a recipient, for whatever success or accomplishment, it is because of people having paved the way for the recipient, having provided mentorship and shoulders to stand on, having opened the doors of opportunity; for people in the present surrounding the recipient and positively embracing, working tirelessly for and sharing a common commitment to an action that the success or accomplishment was realized.

It was and is, in recognition of all who paved the way and all who currently embrace and are committed to the future of RLI that this recognition was humbly accepted!

Thank you RLI International, HOA-RLI and each Rotarian involved along the way!!!!



Bo Porter



# Congratulations Bo Porter!

Bo first became a Rotarian in 1984 in the Rotary Club of New Orleans.

He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Shades Valley in Birmingham, Alabama since 1987, served as its President in 1992-93 and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

He has served District 6860 in many capacities; as Governor's Group Representative/Assistant District Governor for two terms (1993-1995), as Governor's Representative in the formation of the Rotary Club of Shades Mountain Sunrise (1994), as District Trainer for twelve years (1993 – 2005), as Deputy District Governor-Operations for three terms (1997-2000), as District Conference Chair for two Conferences (1991 & 1995), and served on the District Finance committee 1998 – 2012 and 2014 – 17. He served two appointments as Annual Giving Fund sub-committee Chair with a net increase in giving each of the three years served and following his term as DG was invited as a panelist for the Zone 29-30 Rotary Foundation Seminar held in 2003 in conjunction with Zone Institute. He served District 6860 as District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair (Coordinator) 2007 – 2010. Bo led, for twelve years, the District's annual visit to RI headquarters in Evanston, IL. Within the district, Bo is very active with the recently begun "Visioning" effort, serving as a lead facilitator.

Bo was D-6860's elected representative to the 2013 RI Council on Legislation where he presented a proposed enactment on behalf of the district. The enactment successfully passed. Additionally he, on request by members of the RI Board, spoke to another proposal which also successfully passed.

As District 6860 Coordinator for Heart of America Rotary Leadership Institute (HOA-RLI), Bo successfully trained and developed a faculty of fourteen Rotarians who in turn lead the program to its first graduating class in 2014. Bo currently is the HOA-RLI immediate past board chair and Faculty Coordinator for all HOA districts. He previously served two terms as Regional RLI Coordinator for the two Alabama districts and a term as Vice-Chair.

He served a three year term (July 2012 - June 2015) on the RI Communications committee. He served as Vice-Chair of that committee for 2013-14 and again in 2014-15. He served on the RI World Affairs Committee 2004-2005. He was Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinator (RRIMC) for Zone 30 for the years 2006 – 2009. Bo was the President's representative to District 6960 in 2005, to District 6940 in 2008, Districts 7680 and 7690 in 2009, District 7750 in 2010, District 6490 in 2012, District 7020 in 2013 and District 6390 in 2015.

Bo was training leader for the Zone District Governor Nominees in 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2008 and Lead Trainer in 2009 for Zone 30 -31 Governor Nominee Training (GNATS). He served 2005-2008 as Lead Trainer for Mid-South PETS.

Continued on the following page



# Congratulations Bo Porter!

*(Continued from the prior page)*

He was selected in 2008 to serve as General Chair of Mid-South PETS and continued to serve in that role until 2012. He served as Training Leader for the 2009 International Assembly in San Diego, CA

He is recipient of the 2019 Rotary International Service Above Self Award, the 2018 RI District 6860 Tom Milford Service Above Self Award, and the 2021 RLI International Mike Rabasca Outstanding Achievement Award.

Bo, along with his wife Barbara, for eighteen years owned and operated Minute-man Press, a full service printing company, located in Birmingham, AL. He was previously with South Central Bell and A T & T for 20 years. Most of his career within the Bell System was spent in the Marketing organization with his last assignment being Branch Manager for small business systems in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Service to community does not stop with Rotary.

Bo is Past-President and Chairman of the Birmingham Jaycee Foundation, Past-president of the Greater New Orleans Executive Association, Past-president of the Five Points South Merchants and Professionals Association, Past Head Coach of the Birmingham Touchdown Club, Past-president of the Alabama Chapter of the American Liver Foundation, Past-secretary of the national Board of Directors of the American Liver Foundation, a former member of the Community Board of Operation New Birmingham and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Transit Authority (MAX).

He and Barbara are active members of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. Bo has been Team Leader for the church's Rise Against Hunger, formerly known as Stop Hunger Now, event. The event packages meals for feeding school aged children in 'needy countries'. For 2017 and 2018 the event raised over \$90,000 and packaged over 300,000 meals each year.

Bo, a native of Birmingham, a 1967 graduate of Samford University with a BS in Business Administration, sold the printing business in 2004 and retired. He and Barbara are Paul Harris Fellows and Major Donors. They reside in Hoover, AL and have one daughter, Betsy Cagle (PHF), who, with husband Lee, daughter Anna (PHF) and son Evan (PHF), lives in Decatur, AL.



# Coordinator Report

## HOA-RLI Coordinator's Report By Jeff Romine

I have four Districts that I monitor and report about: Districts 6040, 6060, 6080, and 6150. Three Districts have had RLI programs, and one District (6080) does not, but instead has offered an RLA program in the past. Here is a brief summary of what is happening in each of the three RLI programs.

### **District 6040**

District Coordinator – Julie McCoy

Took a break during summer months primarily due to anticipated weak interest.

Julie would like to schedule some live sessions, but covid has not subsided in the region as hoped. The continued presence of Covid concerns reduces both the interest in attendance and availability of sites to host.

Currently Julie is planning to host some online sessions in late October, November, January and February and then April and May, leaving March alone due to PETS.

New facilitators have been trained to help shoulder the responsibility.

### **District 6060**

District Coordinator – Jerry Weems

Took a break during summer months after attempting to host classes which resulted in low levels of interest.

Currently Jerry is planning to host some online sessions in late October and perhaps November.

Jerry would like to schedule some -in-person sessions but is finding resistance. Accordingly they are considering virtual sessions. At this time however, without knowing if face-to-face sessions will start soon, there is reluctance to begin the virtual sessions.

Jerry feels that they are okay with the number of facilitators currently.

### **District 6150**

District Coordinator – Paul Ford

This district has placed the RLI Program "on hold," I continue to make periodic queries about the program with little hope for change at this time. The current DG – James Arbuckle has shown some interest in resurrecting the program, but several phone calls to both Paul and DG James have not been returned.



# Coordinator Report

## HOA-RLI Coordinator's Report By Pamela Stewart

District 6190 offered RLI 1, 2, and 3 in person on Saturday, August 7, but only had registrants for RLI 1. Even so, it was successful as there was an outstanding group of future Rotary leaders. The plan is to continue doing RLI at least once per quarter.

District 6200 has sessions for the 2021-2022 calendar year set forth below and is ramping up at the beginning of 2022 in preparation for PETS training and then planning on returning to live sessions as we wrap up this Rotary year.

### Rotary District 6200

#### Rotary Leadership Institute

#### 2021-22 Schedule

##### • RLI Part II - Virtual

- o Tuesday, July 20, 2021 - Session # 1 of 2
- o Tuesday, July 27, 2021 – Session # 2 of 2

##### • RLI Part III – Virtual

- o Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – Session # 1 of 2
- o Tuesday, September 28, 2021 – Session # 2 of 2

##### • RLI Part I - Virtual

- o Tuesday, January 18, 2022 – Session # 1 of 2
- o Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – Session # 2 of 2

District 6820 conducted a virtual session of RLI 3 in July and had 5 participants complete the session. They are planning to conduct a session of RLI 1 and possibly 2 in October. They are monitoring the COVID situation to determine if they will be able to meet in person as that is the preference.

District 6840 has canceled in person plans for the Fall for obvious reasons. Based on resounding success last year, and lessons learned, the schedule is as follows. The classes must be taken in sequence; registration is required **both at Rotary6840.org AND via the Zoom link** that is sent the weekend prior to the start date. There are 2 topics per session; 3 sessions per part, except Part 3. There is a minimum class size of eight, and the maximum will be set based on number of available facilitators.

Sept 14, 21, 28 PART ONE 5:30-7pm CST -- registration at [rotary6840.org](http://rotary6840.org) is open to all \$25 (could be I need to open registration for non-6840 Rotarians. I can look into that if you think there might be interest for our region.)

Oct 12, 19, 26 PART TWO 5:30-7pm CST -- same as above

Nov 9, 16 PART THREE 5:30-7:30pm CST -- registration is open; Nov 9 will be longer than usual and will cover 3 topics

##### • RLI Part II – Virtual

- o Tuesday, February 1, 2022 – Session # 1 of 2
- o Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – Session # 2 of 2

##### • RLI Part III – Virtual

- o Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – Session # 1 of 2
- o Tuesday, February 22, 2022 – Session # 2 of 2

##### • RLI Part I – In person – location TBD

- o Saturday, April 9, 2022

##### • RLI Part II – In person – location TBD

- o Saturday, May 21, 2022

Pamela Stewart reporting

This information card can be edited for use in a newsletter — or as a “push-card” at an event.

*Note: outline has been added to this publication*

*Contact*

*Jane Molloy*

[jabmolloy@bellsouth.net](mailto:jabmolloy@bellsouth.net)

*for original piece that can be edited*

*Original fits two to an 8 X 12 card*

## ***What about RLI?***



***We are NOT the same-old RLI !!!***

**Do you want to know more about the**

**NEW RLI?**

**We have RLI sessions**

**In Person**

**Virtually**

***And even —***  
**Across District lines!**



**Contact ???? for more information**



# What Is RLI?

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots, leadership development program organized into regional divisions in various parts of the world.

RLI is a recommended program of Rotary International.

*The Rotary Leadership Institute is not an official training program of Rotary International.*

*We Are the Heart of America regional division*

## **HOA-RLI ROTARY ZONES 30-31**

