



IMAGINE ROTARY NEWSLETTER

Julie Leverenz, District Governor 2022-2023

WE LOVE YOU ROTARIANS!

How will you show love for your family, friends and fellow Rotarians during this month of LOVE? ...Just Imagine!



Your District leaders are trying to 'show you the love' by strengthening our ability to support your clubs. We hope you feel it! The following projects are currently being led by nearly 100 District leaders to address our District's five top priority areas: Leading with Passion; Building Better Friendships; Telling our Story; Being Peace-Builders; and Ending Polio!

- Planning and Promoting **District Conference '23 - IMAGINE A SHIFT!**
- Preparing for an exceptional **Show Me Rotary Training for '23-24** for Presidents-Elect and -Nominee
- Connecting clubs to strengthen, inspire and mentor **Membership Development**
- Strengthening the District's **Financial Management Systems** & Enhancing our **Stewardship**
- Building a more robust and sustainable **Public Image System**
- Recruiting, engaging and supporting a broader array of **leaders within the District**
- Preparing **grant training** for clubs who will pursue **'23-24 CAP Grants**
- Optimizing our **Foundation District Designated Funds** to support **Global Grants**

continued...

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

District Conference April 21, 2023

Registration Is OPEN!

Show Me Rotary Dates

Club Presidents-Elect Event!

Congratulations - Candice Blaylock

Congratulations - Brian Kohlberg

Inspired DGE Valerie Sorensen

More Clubs Pay-It-Forward

SMR Shoes For Orphans Soles

Leadership Beyond Your Club

WE LOVE YOU ROTARIANS! (CONTINUED)

- Attending SCRYE and engaging clubs in pilot **Youth Exchange expansion initiatives**
- Enjoying and supporting **Youth Exchange students** in the District
- Preparing for a terrific summer experience at **RYLA** (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy)
- Exploring how we will address the threat of **polio in the US**
- Piloting a club-based **Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging and Equity (DIBEs)** initiative
- Exploring **International Service opportunities** for Rotarians
- Updating the **District Leadership Plan**
- Increasing Membership in the **Polio Plus Society**
- Encouraging more giving the **Foundation Polio Plus**
- Increasing giving to the **Foundation Annual Fund**
- Exploring two **new club start-ups**, and
- Providing **support to at-risk clubs** as needed.



Rotary
District 6060



IMAGINE
ROTARY

District 6060 Presents

The District 6060 Annual Conference

Imagine A Shift

Friday-Saturday
April

21-22
2023

at Cedar Creek Resort
New Haven, MO
Launching at 9:00am

REGISTER NOW

- Operation Pollination Service Project
- **Todd Whitaker:** American educator, writer, motivational speaker
- Foundation Donor Hobnob
- **Stomp'n Out Polio Shindig**
- **Perform For Polio**
- **Gather at the Watering Hole**
- **Golf 2-Person Shamble**
- Foundation Grant Certification
- District Leadership Council
- Past District Governor Luncheon

OPEN

We hope that **you will find inspiration**, whether it be a tidbit or a WOW moment, at the conference this year! You will have an **opportunity to imagine** how your efforts to **grow a pollination garden** will support local health as it matures in a year or so. **We will engage** with ideas from our **special guest, Todd Whitaker**, which may **inspire your work life**. You won't want to miss the Youth from **local Interact Clubs** and **Youth Exchange** as they **share their POV** and inspire us. We will come together to **celebrate giving in support of the Rotary Foundation** as we "hobnob" over appetizers AND THEN **support and celebrate each other as WE PERFORM FOR POLIO!** That's right, we are going to bring the entertainment! Submit your performance by March 21st - get your club members into a skit, bring the mini-band, recite your favorite poem, show us your magic or juggling skills, do a little dance ditty, (etc.) and if you raise the most **money to support PolioPlus** then YOU win ~ **WE ALL WIN!**

Don't miss this unique opportunity!
Please Register Today!



Questions:
info@RotaryDistrict6060.org
314.378.7888

CLUB LEADERS... GET SET, GO! NEXT MEETING... FEBRUARY 9TH

Your first virtual session was on January 26th! But YOU ARE NOT TOO LATE to get this new year rockin'!

The next virtual session is **February 9th at 6pm!**

Plan now to attend **Show Me Rotary Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) 2023** and get prepared for a fantastic year! You won't want to miss your chance to **enhance your leadership skills** as President-Elect or President-Nominee. The Show Me Rotary Council is excited to offer you the tools to lead and improve your club.

PETS dates: Thursday-Saturday, March 23-25

- programming starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday and ends after lunch on Saturday
- weather date a week later

Pre-PETS via Zoom: January 26 and February 9 at 6 p.m.

Your registration is already paid

- each club automatically is billed for two representatives
- if your PE or PN can't attend, send a substitute
- registration opens Jan. 1

Make your hotel reservations at the Capitol Plaza, Jefferson City

- special room rate is \$99/night
- **cutoff for special rate is Feb. 20**
- call 573-635-1234 or 800-338-8088

Phenomenal speakers

- Dr. Stephanie Urchick, **2024-25 President of Rotary International**
- John Blount, Past Director, Rotary International
- Larry Lunsford, Rotary International Board of Trustees
- Elizabeth Usovicz, Rotary International Director

Topics include: Membership, R.I. Foundation and Public Image

More information: <https://showmerotary.org/>

Show Me Rotary Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) is one of the largest multi-district PETS in the United States. It was formed with a view to becoming a premier training event with the atmosphere of a mini Rotary International Convention by leveraging the expertise of three Rotary Districts in Missouri.

With the ability to host exceptional speakers, informative workshops, detailed district training sessions, fellowship and networking, the basic purpose of our PETS is to motivate our 300+ attendees, including Club Presidents-Elect, Presidents-Nominee and Assistant Governors, to ensure they are well prepared for their year of service.



Many thanks to those volunteering to serve on the Show Me Rotary Council including: Rotarians Valerie Sorensen (Cottleville/Weldon Spring); Margie Sammons (Arnold), John Vietmeier - Secretary (Washington), Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis), Jill Cudd (St. Peters), Mike Elam (St. Charles Sunrise), Tim Cudd (St. Peters) Linda McPherson (St. Charles), Rebecca Guzy (Washington), Julie Leverenz (Bowling Green) and our newest District 6060 Council member - Pat Komoroski (Florissant)

CONGRATULATIONS ROTARY CLUB OF SEMO SERVICE



Led by Rotarian Candice Blaylock (pictured), the Southeast Missouri service club collected food equivalent to 69,983 meals! Club members donated and volunteered countless hours over the three month District competition to achieve this amazing result. Thank you for your clear illustration of “service above self!”

CONGRATULATIONS ROTARIAN BRIAN KOHLBERG



Rotarian Brian Kohlberg was recently selected to serve as District Chair for the Rotary Foundation. He will succeed current District Foundation Chair Linda Puchbauer in this important leadership role. Beginning this July he will join Governor Valerie’s team in leading our District’s Foundation committee and serving as our District’s liaison with the Rotary Foundation from 2023-2026. Linda Puchbauer is completing her third year in this prestigious volunteer role. To ensure effective stewardship, both Rotary International and our District limit the term of service for the District Foundation Chair to three years. We are so grateful to Brian for accepting this important role in leading our district and guiding our stewardship and fundraising to support the Rotary Foundation. Linda has already begun Brian’s training and preparation for this role. She will continue to serve on Brian’s team as our Grants chair for the coming year.

GOVERNOR-ELECT VALERIE INSPIRED BY A WEEK WITH ROTARY LEADERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

During January, Governor-Elect Valerie Sorensen enjoyed meeting and learning beside other Governors-Elect from more than 500 Rotary Districts around the world. During this International Assembly, our 2023-24 Rotary International President-Elect Gordan McNally led these leaders in understanding the power of Rotary while introducing the theme for the coming year, “Create Hope in the World”. Gordon is especially interested in leveraging the influence of Rotary in the world to help address the crisis of mental health plaguing so many families around the world and in every community.

Valerie is currently building her leadership team for the coming year, engaging the team in establishing priorities for the coming year, and during Show-Me Rotary, she’ll roll out a variety of exciting opportunities for clubs in the coming year! She is excited to meet all the 2023-24 club leaders and begin preparing for an awesome year beginning on July 1.



MORE CLUBS PAY-IT-FORWARD *THANKS FOR SHARING THE LOVE!

Since preparing last month's newsletter, Governor Julie has received lots of additional notes from club Presidents sharing both appreciation for the Thanksgiving gift and their efforts to 'pay-it-forward'.

"District 6060 Clubs are incredible. I loved receiving your personal notes, and am so proud to know each of you - what a caring and compassionate group of human beings. Thank you!" ~Governor Julie

Today
I CHOOSE
joy

Dear Julie,
This was such a wonderful idea.
So it took me a while to think of
the best way to pay it forward.
Then we had a little "idea" with
an adopt-a-family and the gift
card was the perfect amount to
buy a pair for the couple for a
teen boy on the last-minute list
Thank you!
Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!
Nick Johnson

From St. Charles:
Adopted a Family

Thanks so much for the gift card and the idea about paying it forward this holiday season. Our club
decided to pay it forward by passing the gift card on to a local program in Monroe County called
Christmas is Caring. This program was started in the 2000's by a local couple, Rose and Phyllis Barnes.
The story is told where their son died and left off to his mother that Phyllis passed. It was about taking her
son home with her and she would take care of Christmas for the children of Monroe County. Rose and Phyllis
ran this program for many years for close to 20 years. Due to their declining health in 2013 the
program was taken over by a group led by Diana Hammond. This is a county-wide program with many
volunteers and donors. The program provides food and toys to needy families and homes children in our
county. This year they were able to donate food items to 48 needy families in our community. Each
family received at least a grocery cart full of food and related items along with a \$25 gift card to our
local grocery store. On the 15th of this year they were able to provide for 123 children. Families
submit a wish list to the program. Christmas is Caring then purchases or has items donated to them so
that each child gets three gifts, one set of clothes, and a winter coat with hat/gloves if needed. This year
each child also received a Bible. Depending on their age they ranged from Bible story books up to
reading Bibles.
We were fortunate enough to have Diana Hammond, the leader of Christmas is Caring, as our speaker
at our holiday event. This program is amazing and even though both Rose and Phyllis have since passed
away, the program lives on!
Thanks again for the gift card and the idea to pay it forward, we hope you had a wonderful holiday
season!
Diana Hammond
President, Christmas
Monroe County Rotary Club President

From Paris: Donated to
Christmas is Caring

Julie,
Thank you for the Pay It
Forward gift card! The Troy
Rotary Club used it to help
fund a holiday party for our
Troy South Middle School
Interact Club. You to lend, the
club hasn't had any donors as
Rotary's involvement with the
club has been limited. This
helped us rekindle our
relationship and provide the
students a fun time.
Thanks again! Susan Kitch

From Troy: Funded
a holiday party for
their Middle School
Interact Club

JULIE LEVERENZ:
THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE GIFT CARD
AND ROTARY ENCOURAGEMENT.
WE ARE USING IT TO FURTHER OUR TIDE-DE-CAPE
EVENT. WE HAVE DESIGNATED THE CARD TO LOCAL
CIVIL ORGANIZATION.
CAPE GREENSBORO COUNTY
ROTARY

From Cape County:
Supported Tour-De-
Cape Event

PAY IT FORWARD
it's about
CARING and sharing
IT'S ABOUT
compassion
and kindness
it's about
GENEROSITY
AND love
it's about sacrifice...
you get what you give
SO GIVE GOOD

1/4/22
Governor Julie,
Thank you so much for sending
the gift card to our club.
We gave the card to the Higher
Grounds Coffee and Tea where we
hold our meetings. Not only did we
donate the card, but we used our
fines and happy hours at one of our
meetings to add about \$30.00 more.
We told them to use it however they
wanted to use it. They have a pre-scholarship
a diaper drive, and do so much more
for their community.
Jenny Allen Spirit of St. Louis
County Rotary Club

From Spirit of St. Louis
County: TMore than
doubled gift and donated it
to "Higher Ground"

Julie Leverenz
From: Rasche, Todd <trrasche@duccottz.com>
Sent: Monday, January 2, 2023 9:37 AM
To: Julie
Subject: Pay it forward gift card.
Julie
Happy New Year, You are doing an awesome job. My apologies, I forgot to send you an update on the Pay It
Forward gift card and just realized when reading your email today. Our club was able to increase it to a total of \$125
from personal donations and we decided to donate to the St. Louis Area Food Bank to get the best impact for our area.
Thank you for this started gift.
Todd Rasche
Cottleville/Weldon Spring Club

From Cottleville-Weldon Spring:
Increased the gift five-fold and
donated to the Food Bank

From St. Francois
County: Donated to the
St. Francois Co
Community Partnership

If your club has a giving story,
please share it with me.
-Governor Julie

Thank you for everything you
do; what is known and what is
accomplished silently.

SHOW ME ROTARY TO LAUNCH '23-'24

MULTI-DISTRICT INITIATIVE FOR SHOES FOR ORPHANS SOULS

As your '23-24 leaders begin planning, consider supporting Governor-Elect Valerie Sorensen and this District-wide initiative. This initiative will be formally launched and introduced to all Presidents-Elect and -Nominee at this year's Show Me Rotary (President-Elect Training Seminar).

**Give
shoes.
Give
hope.**



Rotary Districts 6040, 6060 and 6080
are partnering with
Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls®,
which provides new shoes and socks
to orphans
and vulnerable children
in the United States
and throughout the world.

Through a year-long project,
Rotarians will donate new shoes
to put children on the path
to health, education, hope
and opportunity.



Kick-off will be at 6 p.m. Thursday,
March 23, during PETS.
All attendees are asked to each bring
a NEW pair of shoes
for children or teens
(no open-toed shoes).



Shoes for Orphan Souls® provides new shoes and socks to orphans and vulnerable children in the United States and throughout the world. When you donate new shoes they will be received by one of the world's most vulnerable children.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY WITH ROTARY BEYOND YOUR CLUB?

There are so many places to serve beyond the club in Rotary if you enjoy the professional and personal fulfillment of working with others across the geography of our District. Many hands make great work regardless of where your skills and talents are applied within Rotary. Governor-Elect Valerie and her team are actively seeking interest from Rotarians in filling leadership roles for the coming year. If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please reach out. **Here's a listing of the current Rotarians throughout the District who have chosen to lead in Rotary in roles beyond the club.**



Domestic Polio Task Group: Vamsi Marla (St. Louis), Ralph Zuke (St. Louis) Robin Cole III (Cape Girardeau), Other Rotarians are in the process of joining this team.

District Sergeant-At-Arms: Lloyd Miller (Paris)

District Legal Advisor: Scott Harness (Festus-Crystal City)

District Historian: Martha Henderson (Crestwood-Sunset Hills)

RYLA Board of Directors: Michele Goad, Chair (St. Louis); Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis); Dick Sant (Webster Groves); Julie Leverenz (Bowling Green)

Youth Exchange Team: Greg Luzecky, Youth Exchange Officer (Crestwood-Sunset Hills); Steve Bacon (Festus-Crystal City); Norbert Glassl (Crestwood-Sunset Hills); Tim Cudd (St. Peters); Frank North (Hannibal)

New Generations/Interact & Rotaract Chair: Rose Cooper (St. Louis)

District Foundation Team '22-23: Linda Puchbauer, Chair (SEMO Service); Shirlene Hecht (Cape) Stephanie Gremminger (St. Genevieve); Rick Tinucci (St. Louis), Dwain Hahs (Jackson); Ken Heischmidt (Cape); Steve Bacon (Alumni); Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis), Tom Drennan (Spirit of St. Louis)

District Foundation Team '23-24: Brian Kohlberg, Chair (Forest Park); Linda Puchbauer (SEMO Service)

District International Convention Chair: Brigitte Bollerslev (Jackson)

District Assembly Chair '22: Valerie Sorensen (Cottleville/Weldon Spring)

District Assembly Chair '23: Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis)

District Conference Planning Committee '23: Jill Rogers, Co-Chair (Forest Park); Patty Fisher, Co-Chair (Bowling Green); David Robinette (Spirit of St. Louis), Andrea McCreedy (Hannibal), Valerie Sorensen (Cottleville/Weldon Spring), Stacey Self (High Ridge), Kim Combs (Piedmont), Ginger Cayce (Cottleville/Weldon Spring), Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis); Dan Flynn (Spirit of St. Louis); Katie Schonaerts (Union); Elda Seener (Washington); Matt Frederickson (Bowling Green); Jerry Weems (St. Francois Co/Bonne Terre); Andrea Stolzer (St. Genevieve); Julie (Julia) North (Cottleville/Weldon Spring); Margie Sammons (Arnold), John Highdon (Crestwood-Sunset Hills); Sue Cobb (Cottleville/Weldon Spring); Barry Winders (Cape Girardeau);

Multi-District Conference Planning Committee '24: Jill Rogers, Chair (Forest Park); Valerie Sorensen (Cottleville/Weldon Spring) Party Planners come join us.

District Food Drive Competition: Candice Blaylock (SEMO Service)

Multi-Year Planning Committee '22-23: Valerie Sorensen, Chair (Cottleville/Weldon Spring)

Multi-Year Planning Committee '23-'24: Jerry Nolen, Chair (Spirit of St. Louis)

LEADERSHIP BEYOND YOUR CLUB... CONTINUED

District Visioning: Rick Tinucci, Chair (St. Louis); Sue Cobb (Cottleville/Weldon Spring)

Inter-City Fellowship: Fletcher Wells (St. Charles)

International Service Chair: Sue Cobb (Cottleville/Weldon Spring)

District Secretary: Pam Harrell (Troy)

District Treasurer: Andrea McCready (Hannibal)

Golf Fellowship: John Higdon (Crestwood/Sunset Hills)

Membership Committee: Raffi Andonian, Chair (St. Louis); Bill Dees, Innovative Club Advocate (Hannibal); Jennifer Williams, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging and Equity Sub-Committee Chair (Florissant); Muhammed Rahman (St. Louis); Heidi Meckes (Kirkwood)

Show Me Rotary Council: John Vietmeier, Secretary (Washington); Valerie Sorensen (Cottleville/Weldon Spring); Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis); Julie Leverenz, (Bowling Green); Margie Sammons (Arnold); Jill Cudd (St. Peters); Tim Cudd (St. Peters); Pat Komoroski (Florissant); Mike Elam (St. Charles-Sunrise); Linda McPherson (St. Charles); Rebecca Guzy (Washington)

Show Me Rotary Training Facilitators: Sue Cobb (Cottleville/Weldon Spring); Linda McPherson (St. Charles); Ralph Zuke (St. Louis Civilians)

Public Image Chair: Jill Rogers (Forest Park)

Webmaster/DACdb Chair: David Robinette (Spirit of St. Louis)

Finance Committee: David Robinette, Chair (Spirit of St. Louis); Julie Leverenz (Bowling Green); Margie Sammons, (Arnold); Tom Drennan (Spirit of St. Louis); Valerie Sorensen (Cottleville/Weldon Spring); Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis); Andrea McCready (Hannibal)

District Peace Chair: Rose Cooper (St. Louis)

District Insurance Representative: Jerry Weems (St. Francois Co/Bonne Terre)

District Trainer: John Vietmeier (Washington)

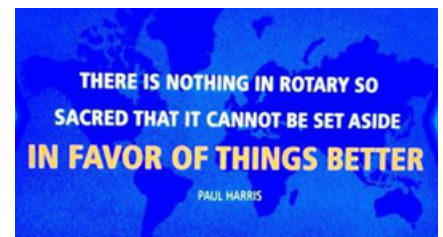
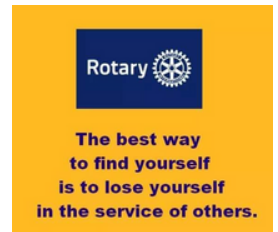
District Governor Nominee: Jerry Nolen (Spirit of St. Louis)

District Governor Elect: Valerie Sorensen (Cottleville/Weldon Spring)

Immediate Past District Governor: Margie Sammons (Arnold)

Vice Governor: Jill Rogers (Forest Park)

Governor: Julie Leverenz (Bowling Green)



Many thanks to all of these volunteers! Want to join us?



"LET'S IMAGINE. LET'S LEAD,
LET'S FALL IN LOVE, AND LET'S TAKE
ACTION TO LIVE INTO OUR DREAMS TO
SERVE. AND LET'S LEAVE THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE
THAN WE FOUND IT."



Julie H. Leverenz
District 6060 Governor 2022-23
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