



# CREATE HOPE NEWSLETTER

Valerie Sorensen, District Governor 2023-2024

## FINAL TWO DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISITS

What a privilege it has been to visit all 48 clubs of District 6060! In January, Mike and I traveled Reynolds County and Kirkwood. Both clubs donated to the Navajo Water Project and our Let's Bury Larry Shoe Drive.

I want to share my appreciation to my husband, Mike Sorensen, our First Man and "Sole Man" of District 6060. He drove us to all the club visits and shared his passion for the Shoe Drive. Keep up your club's shoe collecting efforts. We still need 4,000+ pairs of shoes to reach our 20,000 pair goal. (The shoe tally per club is on the last page of the newsletter. How are you ranked?)

As we have completed our DG visits and shoe collection service, check out the September District newsletter for shoe packing tips. Bring all your sealed boxes to the Funvention April 19-20 at Margaritaville at Lake of the Ozarks. Buckner Intl will have the tractor/trailers there. Also let Mike know in February and March, your new additional shoe and cash counts. Let's bet D6040 and D6080 and Let's Bury Larry!

*Valerie*



Mike Sorensen, First Man, "Sole Man" also in charge of the DMV (Driving Miss Valerie)



Troy Rotary Club with their shoe donation

# Preparing the Next Generation of Rotary Club Presidents



March 22 & 23, 2024  
University Plaza Hotel  
Springfield, MO

Attend Pre-PETS at 6 p.m.  
March 7 or 12 via Zoom.

Incoming presidents and presidents-elect, have you registered for Presidents-Elect Training (PETS)? The registration fee for incoming presidents and presidents-elect has already been billed to your club. You simply need to fill out the online registration form and make hotel reservations. [Click Here to Register](#) The University Plaza Hotel is holding a block of rooms for our group code "Show Me." The last date for discounted hotel rates is March 2. [Click Here to Make Hotel Reservations](#) .

Show Me Rotary is one of Rotary's first and premier incoming Presidents and Presidents-Elect Training. For Over 40 years Missouri Rotary leaders have convened to hear the message and priorities of our senior leaders and incoming District Governors. Show Me Rotary PETS is where you will meet with your fellow presidents-elect and presidents-nominee. You will have time to network, share ideas, and learn the important role you have as club president.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. Friday, March 22, with the first session at 9. Saturday's sessions start with breakfast at 8 a.m. and [end with lunch from noon to 1:20 p.m.](#) The complete schedule is on the Show Me Rotary website. See [Show Me Rotary Training Schedule](#) .

Hear from dynamic speakers:

**Stephanie A. Urchick**, the incoming president (2024-25) of Rotary International

**Michael Angelo Caruso**, who teaches people how to be better speakers and presenters so they can help more people

**Beth Stubbs**, Rotary International Director for Zones 30 and 31

**Sigrid Solomon**, an independent diversity consultant

Reminders:

Be sure to bring your club banner to display at PETS.

- Winners of the Literacy Contest will be announced at PETS. See separate flier for information and be sure to bring the tally sheet you get from your DGE with you to PETS.

There's lots to do in Springfield, so consider bring your family. See the [University Plaza Hotel website](#) for suggestions.

For more information, see Show Me Rotary's website: <https://showmerotary.org/>

or the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/showmerotary>

# DYNAMIC SPEAKERS AT PETS

## **Stephanie A. Urchick**

Stephanie was an RI director and Rotary Foundation trustee. She served RI in numerous capacities, including as training leader, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, and RI president's representative.

Stephanie was a representative to sessions of the Council on Legislation, was chair of the Rotary Strategic Planning Committee and The Rotary Foundation's Centennial Celebration Committee, was a member of Rotary committees, including the Election Review Committee and Operational Review Committees, and participated in a variety international service projects, including National Immunization Days. She worked with clubs in Vietnam to build a primary school and helped to install water filters in the Dominican Republic.

She speaks several Slavic languages and mentored new Rotary members in Ukraine. She coordinated a Rotary grant for a mammography equipment and a biopsy unit for a hospital in Poland. Stephanie is partnering clubs and districts in the U.S. with Rotary clubs in Albania, Kosovo, and Ukraine for humanitarian and educational services.

Her professional background is in the higher education, consulting, and entertainment industries. She received her doctorate degree in Leadership Studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and was awarded by The Rotary Foundation and numerous community and international organizations.

## **Beth Stubbs**

Beth served her district in several capacities including as chair of its finance, Foundation, and leadership development and education committees.

Stubbs attended 21 international conventions, traveled to New York City for UN Day for Rotary, served in a National Immunization Day in India, traveled to Mexico for club partnership projects, and attended various Zone meetings around the country. She and her husband, Tony, support The Rotary Foundation as Arch Klumph Society members.

Beth is a certified public accountant (CPA) who earned her degree at Plymouth State College. After working as a CPA at a Maryville firm, she set up her own private practice in 1994.

She served on the boards of local nonprofits including at Michael Dunn Center, which helps individuals with developmental disabilities and at Asbury Place, a regional retirement community organization. She served in officer positions in Toastmasters International and is active on several committees at her church.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling, and attending football and basketball games at the University of Tennessee.



The incoming president (2024-25) of Rotary International, Stephanie Urchick, is the speaker at Friday's dinner. She joined Rotary in 1991, and is a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania.



Beth Stubbs, Rotary International Director for Zones 30 and 31, will be Friday's luncheon speaker. She first started frequenting Rotary club meetings at age 8 with her father and joined the Rotary Club of Maryville, Tennessee, in 1991.

# DYNAMIC ENTERTAINMENT AT PETS

## Ashley Dawn

Our entertainment during Friday evening's dinner will be Ashley Dawn, who was Branson's Terry Music Female Vocalist of 2022. She is a seasoned Nashville recording artist with country, bluegrass and southern gospel roots. who channels the music of Reba, Dolly, Miranda Lambert, Shania, the Judds, etc.

She landed a Nashville record deal at the age of 17 and toured with her brother and sister in the southern gospel trio, the Praters, charting on the top 100. Together, the trio performed over 200 concerts per year across the country.

She was later contracted as the lead vocalist for the 135th Army Band, Aftershock, where she toured for two years, performing at military balls and various theme parks. In Fall of 2023 she joined Nashville recording artist, Shane Vancamp, to form the duo, Outer Limits, after performing together for four years on the Branson's Famous Baldknobbers show.

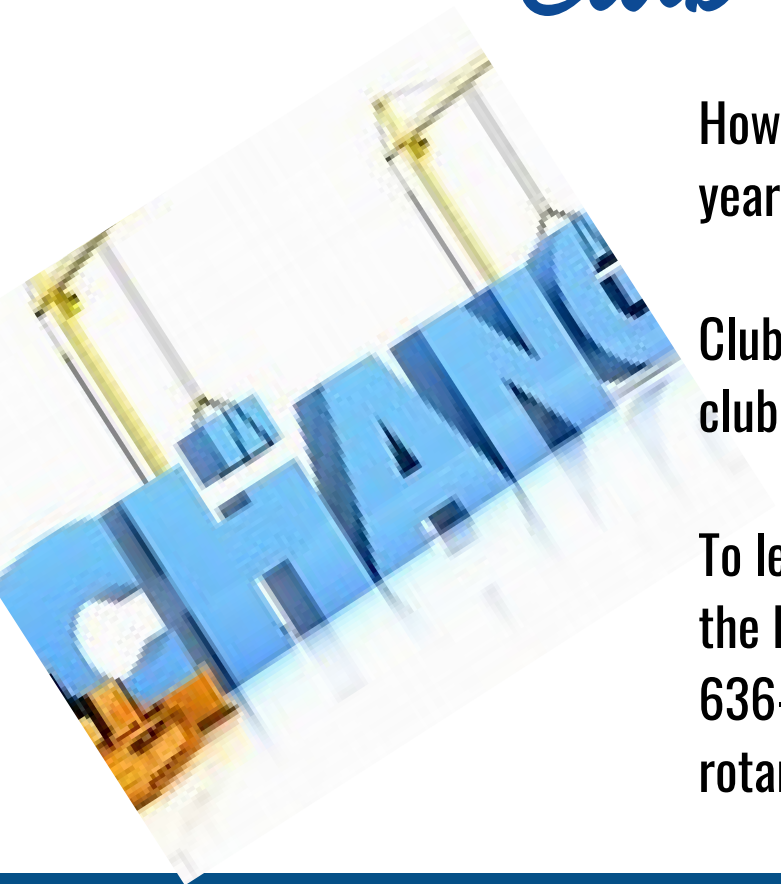


## Club Visioning

How will your club change in the next three years?

Club Visioning is a process that helps your club manage change.

To learn more about Club Visioning, contact the District's Visioning Chair, Sue Cobb, at 636-284-4686 or [rotarysuecobb@gmail.com](mailto:rotarysuecobb@gmail.com).







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## How would you like to create some Rotary magic in your community with an extra \$500 grant?

DISTRICT 6060 IS GOING TO GIVE AWAY TEN (10) \$500 GRANTS FOR YOUR CLUB TO USE TO “DO GOOD” IN YOUR COMMUNITY

HOW DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE A CHANCE TO GET THIS GRANT?

1. REGISTER FOR PRESIDENTS-ELECT TRAINING (PETS) AT [WWW.SHOWMEROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.SHOWMEROTARY.ORG).
2. ATTEND ONE OF THE TWO ZOOM PRE-PETS SESSIONS.
3. ATTEND THE MARCH 22 AND 23 PETS
4. ENTER YOUR CLUB GOALS INTO ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL BY THE END OF PETS.

If you, the incoming president, do all four of the above items, your club name will be placed in a drawing for one of the ten \$500 grants. The recipients will be notified after PETS.

# LITERACY Contest

Show Me Rotary Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)  
is sponsoring a contest  
to promote literacy  
in Districts 6040, 6060 & 6080.



Contest runs Feb. 1 to March 15

Books donated – each book = 5 points

(books can be donated to schools, libraries, etc.)

Volunteer reading – each hour = 10 points

(read to children, elderly or anyone; for adult literacy, etc.)

Money donated – each \$ = 1 point

(donate to schools, libraries, etc.)

It's club vs. club. One winning club from each district will get \$100.

An overall winner from the three districts gets an additional \$150.

Winners will be announced at Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)

**Let the Magic of Rotary begin with Literacy!**

Rotary Districts 6040, 6060, and 6080  
Celebrate Together

# Fun Convention!

April 19-21,  
2024



- ✓ Shoes for Orphan Souls Collection
- ✓ Dinner Cruise
- ✓ Evan Burrell - Changemaker
- ✓ Cornhole Tourney for Polio+
- ✓ Golf Tourney for The Rotary Foundation

**Register Here Now!!!!**

**Experiential Rock  
Star Keynote  
Speaker from  
Las Vegas,  
Marvelous Mark.**



# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

District-supported scholarship is available for study in any academic field, but preference is given to those whose field of study is related to one of the areas of humanitarian need listed on the right.

Applicants may be a graduate student or may have completed one or more degrees and/or be engaged in the early stages of a career. There is no upper age limit, but applicants must have completed their bachelor's degree prior to submitting an application.

The program provides for a grant in the amount of up to \$15,000 for the 2023-24 Rotary year to pay for tuition, fees, room and board, educational supplies, and round-trip transportation to/from the study site. Scholars must account for all expenditures and must provide funding to cover all costs that exceed the amount provided by Rotary. All unspent funds must be returned to Rotary.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

January 31, annually – deadline for applicants to submit a completed application form to a local Rotary club for endorsement

April 15, annually – deadline for club presidents to mail endorsed applications to the District Scholarship Chair

April annually – interviews of endorsed applicants by the District 6060 Scholarship Committee. (Virtually)

For More info visit <https://rotary6060.org/ambassadorial-scholar.php>

Global Scholarships are supported jointly by District funds and by a Global Grant from the World Fund of the Rotary Foundation. They are available only to applicants whose field of study and career plans pertain directly to one or more of the following seven humanitarian focus areas:

- 1) Peace and conflict prevention and/or resolution
- 2) Disease prevention and treatment
- 3) Water and sanitation
- 4) Maternal and child health
- 5) Basic education and literacy
- 6) Economic and community development
- 7) Environment



Club-endorsed applications for Rotary Scholarships must be mailed by club presidents so they arrive no later than April 15, 2024 to:

Kevin Timlin  
District Scholarship Chair  
361 N. Park Ave.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
906-236-2002  
[kjtimlin@semo.edu](mailto:kjtimlin@semo.edu)

# Ambassador Scholarships



# RYLA (ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS) ACADEMY

Session 1: Sunday, June 23 thru Wednesday, June 26

Session 2: Sunday, July 7 thru Wednesday, July 10

It is important to take note of the following deadlines:

January 1, 2024: Sign up/registration for both sessions opened

April 30, 2024: Sign up/registration for both sessions closes

May 20th, 2024: Last day for \$475 club refund if your student withdraws. NO refunds will be given after May 20, 2024.

January--May 20th, 2024: If your club has a student withdraw before May 20th and your club does NOT want a refund, you can sign up a replacement with either gender

May 21st--June 5th, 2024: If your club has a student withdraw after May 23rd, you can sign up a replacement with a student of the same gender Missouri RYLA Academy Website: [www.missouriryla.com](http://www.missouriryla.com)

- Rotary Club Selection Tips: <http://www.missouriryla.com/helpful-selection-tips>
- Rotary Club Student Sign Up Instructions: <http://www.missouriryla.com/stepbystep-instructions-to-electronically-sign-up-a-student>
- Rotary Club Student Sign Up Link: <http://www.missouriryla.com/rotary-club-sign-up-form>
- A letter to school educators and counselors: <http://www.missouriryla.com/letter-to-school-counselor-educator>
- Marketing Fliers: <http://www.missouriryla.com/modern-promo-flyer>
- <http://www.missouriryla.com/traditional-promo-flyer>
- Read what MO RYLA grads are up to: <http://www.missouriryla.com/rylarian-graduates>



# ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS ATTEND SCRYE WINTER CONFERENCE

This January, Rotarians and Inbound students from our District attended the annual Winter Conference of South Central Rotary Youth Exchange (SCRYE) in Tulsa, OK.

District Governor Nominee Ralph Zuke joined District Youth Exchange Chairman Greg Luzecky and District Inbound Coordinator Steve Bacon, along with our students from Italy, Mexico, Brazil and France.

The weekend started off with an overnight at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Crestwood, where the Rotarians and students were joined by Mary Jo Bacon and Ella Robey – a former Rotary exchange student now at Washington U. Greg, Steve and the students then caravanned to Tulsa.

While the Rotarians engaged in large group and break-out sessions on various aspects of Youth Exchange, the students were home-hosted by Tulsa Rotarians on Friday, then treated to a lock-in following the Saturday night banquet with some 100-plus students in attendance from the 35 Rotary districts comprising SCRYE. The Rotarians

had an opportunity to meet and hear from State Department representatives, insurance administrators and others. The State Department reps complimented the Rotary program, calling us the “gold standard” of international student exchange programs in the US.

The weekend ended with the long drive back from Tulsa with the sleepy-eyed students sacked out in the back of the van.

January also saw the departure of our Outbound student – Jeremy from Webster Groves – for his year-long exchange to Cordoba, Argentina.

Our District exchange program is gearing up for the arrival of more exchange students in August and for the receipt of Outbound applicants in the Fall. If your club would like to learn more on how to sponsor a student from your community for this life-changing experience or to host one of our Inbound students, please contact our District Chairman, Greg Luzecky, at [rye6060gregl@gmail.com](mailto:rye6060gregl@gmail.com).





## CLUB PROJECTS



**Rotary Club of Cottleville/Weldon Spring** completed a small international project by donating soccer balls to a youth soccer club in Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico. The donation was matched by a local sports journalist, Miguel Aguilar. This photo appeared in Miguel's story about our donation published in a local Nayarit newspaper. The boys and girls on the soccer team received the soccer balls on Three Kings Day, a joyous holiday in Spanish-speaking countries.



**Rotary Club of Crestwood-Sunset Hills and Interact Club of Lindbergh** joined to pack bags for the Feed the Knowledge program. They finished in record time. Feed the Knowledge provides nutritious, kid-friendly, easy to prepare weekend food.



## Rotarians Out and About

2,621 miles from St. Louis on a small Cocoa Estate on the island of Tabago, someone hears a response to the question, “Where are you from?” Next, a mustached friendly face appears from the side and says “Well, I know you!”

Two longtime District 6060 Rotarians Rennie Davis and Jill Rogers with spouses and family, reconnect and enjoy a laugh at the serendipity of the moment. Cruising on the same ship for the last 5 days, Rennie said, “I thought I saw you out of our tour bus window, as you walked by yesterday! It was you!”



## Liam Neeson brings his particular set of skills to Rotary

The Rotary Club of Ballymena proudly celebrated its 80th anniversary with the induction of a local Hollywood star!

Liam Neeson, star of films such as “Taken”, “Schindler’s List”; and “Batman Begins”, received an honorary membership from the County Antrim-based club and sent a video message from his home in New York commending the dedication of the club’s members

Find out more: <https://www.rotarygbi.org/.../rotary-reaches-the-stars/>



## Three District 6060 Rotarians Honored

Mike Elam of St. Charles Sunrise and Scott Lewis and Bob Ronkoski of Cottleville/Weldon Spring received the “Excellence in Leadership” award from the Saint Charles County Ambassadors and the Saint Louis Ambassadors 1904 Worlds Fair Charitable Foundation for their dedication and leadership to making the St. Louis region a better place. Thank you for your Service Above Self, Gentlemen!



# NAVAJO WATER PROJECT

\$8,022 recent money  
\$4,500 previously from CAP Grant  
Totaling \$12,522 to Dig Deep

On the Navajo Nation, 30% of families live without running water. They drive for miles to haul barrels of water to meet their basic needs. They carefully ration water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing. But despite their struggle for water, these families still go to work, take their children to school and lead their communities.

Running water is transformation. We're on a mission to get clean, hot and cold running water to more households, so families can stop hauling and start enjoying the simple miracle of a working tap.

*Great Job  
District 6060!*

## SHOE TALLY AS OF DEC 31, 2023

### Top 3 Shoe Collectors

- Arnold
- Piedmont
- Cottleville/Weldon Spring

### Top 3 Cash for Shoes Collectors

- Washington
- Cape Girardeau County
- Hannibal



[DISTRICT  
CALENDAR LINK](#)

Club Name	Club Totals	Per Capita	Cash
Arnold	3614	78.57	
Bowling Green	132	4.13	
Cape Girardeau	103	1.63	
Cape Girardeau County	33	1.74	\$961
Cape Girardeau West	11	0.21	
Clayton-Ladue	46	1.44	
Cottleville/Weldon Spring	2374	139.65	\$90
Crestwood-Sunset Hills	52	1.24	
De Soto	276	18.4	
Dexter	15	0.79	
Festus-Crystal City	48	1.04	
Florissant	41	0.91	
Fredericktown	8	0.53	
Hannibal	17	0.29	\$350
Hayti	0	0	
High Ridge	346	10.81	
Hillsboro	73	2.81	

Club Name	Club Totals	Per Capita	Cash
Jackson	34	0.97	
Kennett	30	1.43	
Kirkwood	37	0.47	
Louisiana	144	4.36	
Mexico	58	0.98	
Montgomery County	16	0.89	\$40
O'Fallon	0	0	
Paris	100	4.35	
Perryville	32	1.07	
Piedmont	2600	72.22	
Poplar Bluff	49	1.53	
Reynolds County	9	0.69	
Rotaract club of East Central College	0	0	
Rotaract club of SLU	0	0	
Sikeston	2	0.06	
Southeast Missouri Service	1258	40.58	

Club Name	Club Totals	Per Capita	Cash
Spirit of St. Louis County	1915	87.05	
St. Charles	222	3.47	
St. Charles-Sunrise	321	12.35	\$20
St. Francois County/Bonne Terre	210	5	
St. Louis	119	0.92	
St. Louis Civilians	8	0.38	
St. Peters	111	11.10	
Ste. Genevieve	50	1.04	
Steele	0	0	
Sullivan	57	1.97	
Troy	92	2.24	
Union	24	0.57	\$60
Vandalia	44	2.93	
Warren County	15	0.58	
Washington	121	1.26	\$4994
Webster Groves	84	1.62	\$216
Wentzville	780	10.54	
West St. Louis County	34	1.1	
	15765	8.65	\$6,756

**Rotary**  
District 6060



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

**Valerie Sorensen**

District 6060 Governor 2023-24

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