



CREATE HOPE NEWSLETTER

Valerie Sorensen, District Governor 2023-2024

Preparing the Next Generation of Rotary Club Presidents

Two opportunities to join the Pre-PETS:

Pre Presidents Elect Training PETS

March 7, 2024 from 6:00-7:15 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86595262471?pwd=ZmRlcGpoRkZRM09vdjdjMUpFS0VUUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 9526 2471

Passcode: 301645

Pre Presidents Elect Training

March 12, 2024 from 6:00-7:15 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518120932?pwd=T3NvaU9URG95cUdNK3hqOGRqNUFLQT09>

Meeting ID: 885 1812 0932

Passcode: 815900

*The goal of a true leader should always be
getting everyone around you to achieve the most
they can possibly achieve.*

Mark Maloney, Rotary International President 2019-2020

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 website for suggestions.

University Plaza Hotel

For more information, see Show Me Rotary's website: <https://showmerotary.org/>
or the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/showmerotary>



Missouri Districts
6040, 6060, 6080

Rotary **Fun**vention!

Gather and Celebrate
April 19-20, 2024

Margaritaville Lake Resort
Lake of the Ozarks

- Evan Burrell, from Australia
Rotary Changemaker and Storyteller
- Marvelous Mark, Rock Star Keynote Speaker
- Dinner Cruise with entertainment by Trixie Delight
- Golf Tournament for The Rotary Foundation
- Cornhole Tournament for Polio+
- PDG, Major Donor, and Paul Harris Society Reception

Register

(event registration and details
about hotel rooms)

Rotary
Funvention!

Rotary
District 6060



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

We're back!

INTERCITY

MEETING MARCH 29

11:30AM - 1:30PM

Webster Groves Recreation Complex
33 E. Glendale Rd., Webster Groves, MO 63119



SPEAKER:

Charlie Brennan, long-time KMOX host and moderator of KETC-TV's "Donnybrook," among the highest rated locally-produced talk shows on PBS.



WESTWOOD CATERING:

Pasta Primavera (meatless)
Chicken Picatta (gluten-free)
Rich & Charlie's salad (gluten-free upon request)
Rolls and Butter, Drinks and Dessert

RSVP with lunch option at

<http://tinyurl.com/Rotary-Intercity-Lunch>,

scan QR code at right, or

email President@webstergrovesrotary.org

\$20

cash or check at the door



Hosted by Rotary Club of Webster Groves



Diversity helps build strong communities

"There have always been groups of people who for one reason or another are not appreciated to the extent that the world needs to appreciate them," said Julie Leverenz during last week's Bowling Green Rotary Club meeting.

Whether it is women fighting to get the right to vote, as Genevieve Clark did in the 1920s or people who have been discriminated against because of their culture or the color of their skin, there have always been groups of people who are marginalized, she said.

Because of this, she noted, when she was district governor for Rotary, they spent a lot of time on the topic to come up with a program to help people see beyond their own groups.

"We have framed it as 'Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging, Empathy —#DIBEs,'" Leverenz said. "Belonging is what touched me," she added, "because we all want to be appreciated. We are all unique and so different in so many ways." Because Rotary is a microcosm of the world, the groups are open to welcoming more individuals into their clubs who are different than those already in the club.

With that in mind, Leverenz introduced the guest speaker, Jennifer Williams and her husband, Andre. Jennifer was picked to lead the way on speaking with Rotary groups to show all the clubs how to be more thoughtful when seeking out new members.

Jennifer, who founded JWI Partners group, traveled to Bowling Green from her Rotary Club in Florissant, Mo., to present the recently developed DIBEs program.

When she first joined Rotary in 2022, Jennifer said her friends questioned her about it, believing the group was part of the Ku Klux Klan. She has worked with Monsanto and Master Card on diversity programs and thought she could move forward by becoming part of Rotary and all that the clubs do to help their communities and others throughout the world.

"I am so passionate about diversity," she said. She worked with these big companies on the issue of retaining top talent employees no matter what their gender or ethnicity.

So, when she joined Rotary, she jumped in with both feet to see how she could move this initiative forward.

"When companies disregard diversity, inclusion, belonging and empathy," she said, what outcomes might they encounter, she asked. Engaging the members, they said the companies could lose market share, they lose innovation, new ideas, and those employees.

"We miss the diverse perspective, and we limit creativity and innovation," Jennifer said. "If we don't embrace (DIBEs) in our clubs," she added, "we lose the diverse perspective." Without these groups, we lose that creativity and innovation.

"We need people who look different than us to be part of our club," she said.

She had the members break into three groups to discuss what could be done to increase diversity within the club, which would then spill over into their everyday lives, both personal and work.

DIBEs, she explained, ties into Rotary's Four-Way Test, something the groups recite at the end of each meeting—"Of the things we say and do: Is it the Truth, Is it Fair to All Concerned, Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships, Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned."

She asked the groups would it be beneficial to all concerned if the clubs had greater diversity, inclusion, belonging and empathy?

Without DIBEs, the groups noted, clubs could limit their creativity and innovation.

Leverenz said one of the biggest challenges is in social-economic status. Life is difficult for those who are just barely scraping by.

"Poverty is such a pervasive challenge," she said.

With other people's experiences, said Milan Berry, you will have a better understanding of their lives, and there is so much to learn from other groups.

Stephen Hunter said by including others, each group could grow and develop new networks of friends.

Kevin Brown said DIBEs would help groups break out of their usual way of doing things, and that in itself would help groups grow.

Jennifer challenged the Bowling Green Rotary Club to find ways to include more diverse people.

written by Stan Schwattz, for "Pike County News"

Rotary Club aims to collect 20,000 pairs of shoes

The Rotary Club of Washington is participating in a statewide shoe drive with the goal of collecting 20,000 pairs of shoes for Shoes For Orphan Souls.

This initiative embodies the 2023-24 Rotary International theme, “Create Hope in the World,” according to the club, and the shoes will go to vulnerable children around the United States and the world. In addition to the U.S., countries designated to receive shoes this year are Kenya, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

“It is hard for us to imagine growing up without shoes, but it is more than having a pair of shoes, it’s the first step toward transformation,” the Rotary Club said in a press release. “New shoes put children on a path to prevent health issues, improve attendance at school and increase self-confidence.”

The Rotary Club is partnering with the Washington Optimists, Lions Clubs and Brown’s Shoe Center to make a bigger impact to improve the lives of the less fortunate. If you would like to learn more about this project, visit buckner.org/shoes.

The requested shoes are to be closed toe, both male and female, new shoes, sizes 0 to 14. The greatest need is for boys ages 14 to 18 years old. The Rotary Club said it would appreciate community support to help reach its goal.

New shoes can be dropped off at Citizens Bank, 1451 High Street, Ste 101. If you are interested in making a cash donation, the Rotary Club of Washington will purchase the shoes.

Checks made payable to Rotary Club of Washington can be dropped off at Citizens Bank or mailed to P.O. Box 85, Washington, MO 63090. In the memo, denote “Shoes for Orphan Souls.”

To donate online, go to buckner.org/MoRotary. The club is taking donations through March 4, 2024.

Those with questions can contact Donna Klott, coordinator for Washington Rotary Club, at 636-390-9944 or reach out to any Rotary Club member.

published emissourian.com



**Shoes
Shoes
and more
Shoes**

FRIENDSHIP CULTURAL EXCHANGE TO INDIA, JAN. 2024

A few of our fellow Rotarians from District 6060 in Eastern Missouri participated in the Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) to Rotary District 2981 in Southeast India in January 2024. This area of India is around Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu state in India. The purpose of the Friendship Exchanges is to broaden international understanding, build enduring friendships, and learn about a region's people, food, language, customs, and history. There were also opportunities to witness the active Rotary projects in the local area.

Upon arrival in Chennai, the five members of this team were driven to and attended a three-day district conference that had 4,500 participants. Yes, thousands at the district conference. We felt like rock stars given how many hundreds of Rotarians wanted to have their picture taken with us. The celebration, pageantry, music and fellowship at the conference were extraordinarily different and exciting. We talked with many participants, ate many different foods, learned how to eat food with our right hand off the banana leaves (a very environmentally responsible approach). Different showers, toilets, eating arrangements, religious buildings, road conditions, and general density of populations.

During time around Kumbakonam, Mamallapuram, Thanjavur, and Pondicherry we visited many different historical sites (ancient Hindu Temples- World Heritage sites),

farms, wholesale food markets, small factories, rice fields, coconut plantation, retail shops, local restaurants and walked along the seashores. We also visited a school run by a local Rotary Club for children with developmental disabilities and a Rotary shelter for adults with developmental disabilities who were previously homeless.

The program wrapped for most of us in Pondicherry, a former French territory in India on the oceanfront. Another member went up north to Varanasi, one of India's holiest cities. Upon our return home from India, we have many fond memories and look forward to future visit opportunities that Rotary Fellowship Exchanges have to offer our members.

As a follow up, a small group of Rotarians from India will be reciprocating our visit by coming to our district in Missouri in April 2024. We hope to extend the same high level of hospitality to them as we received in India.

If you and/or your club could in any way assist with this hospitality, please contact your district Friendship Exchange Co Chairs Robert Wagnon (Webster Groves club) at rwagnon@gmail.com or Kenneth Heischmidt (Cape Girardeau) at kheischmidt@semo.edu. Thank you in advance for your help. It is much appreciated as this is a great learning experience for all.

INDIA

FRIENDSHIP CULTURAL EXCHANGE



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 FEBRUARY 29, 2023

Top 3 Shoe Collectors

- Arnold
- Cottleville/Weldon Spring
- Piedmont

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	150	4.69	
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	2634	154.94	
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	1445	46.61	

Club Name	Club Totals	Per Capita	Cash
Spirit of St. Louis County	1915	87.05	
St. Charles	252	3.94	
St. Charles-Sunrise	321	12.35	\$20
St. Francois County/Bonne Terre	234	5.57	
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	\$60
Union	24	0.57	\$25
Vandalia	44	2.93	
Warren County	15	0.58	
Washington	134	1.40	\$5198
Webster Groves	117	2.25	\$347
Wentzville	1001	13.53	
West St. Louis County	34	1.1	
	16551	9.08	\$7001

Rotary
District 6060



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

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