

ROTARY District 6490 newsletter



www.rotarydistrict6490.org



District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson

Dear Friends in Rotary,

I have had an interesting, inspiring, and fun month since my last newsletter! It was very interesting traveling around District 6490 with Larry Kenemore, Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention, and I am excited to bring Project SMART to parts of our district! I was inspired to meet the Presidents-Elect who will serve their clubs, as well as the Rotary International President-Elect, Stephanie Urchick, who spoke at the Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) in Effingham. I really appreciate those of you who have stepped up to serve your Rotary clubs and/or District 6490 for 2024–2025! I had a lot of fun at Mattoon and Charleston Joint Rotary Club Comedy



Night and at Tuscola Rotary's Auction! I am so impressed with the wide range of activities our clubs sponsor with their fundraisers. You can read more about these events in this month's newsletter.

Warm regards,
Janet Ellis-Nelson
Rotary District 6490 Governor

APRIL DESIGNATION IS

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH



Photo by Alyce Henspin, © Rotary International. Design layout by Gilbert Thien Rotary Club of Miami.

"Every child deserves a chance at a life filled with love, laughter, friends and family."

Marlo Thomas

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved



May 16-17 Presidents-Elect Training Inspires Rotary Leaders

Many Rotarians from District 6490 were involved in the production and training for PETS 2024 for four districts in central and southern Illinois and Indiana: Past District Governor Julie Dobski chaired the event and brought outstanding speakers, entertainment, and beautiful decorations, making PETS 2024 very special! Assistant Governor Kenton Elmore was in charge of securing facilitators and curriculum; Assistant Governor Coordinator Laura Pritts helped with public relations, website and technology; District Governor Nominee Designate Deb West facilitated the Assistant Governor Training; District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson and District Member Engagement Chair Shandra Sum-

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Assistant Governor Ashley Dillingham of Effingham Rotary organized a service project for PETS attendees who donated food items for Enduring Freedom Ministries Food Pantry.



Normal Rotarian and leader in Rotarians Against Malaria Action Group, Drake Zimmerman, spoke during a District 6490 breakout session about joining the group and being involved in eradicating malaria across the globe.



Past District Governor Julie Dobski



Ashley Dillingham and Beverly Soltwedel of Effingham Rotary delivered donated food to Enduring Freedom Ministries Food Pantry.



Presidents-elect, presidents-nominee, assistant governors, and District 6490 leaders at PETS in Effingham.

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merville facilitated four sessions for Presidents-Elect on Increasing Member Engagement, and District Governor Nominee Mike Martin led three District 6490 Breakout Sessions. Tina Stovall and District Governor Nominee John Calderon, who chair the District 6490 Disaster Response Team, sold raffle tickets to raise

money for our Disaster Response Fund. Mary and Tom Hodson represented ShelterBox USA and Eric Luedtke sold wares for Nepal in the House of Friendship.



Above: Stephanie Urchick from the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pa., will serve as RI President in 2024–2025. She was the keynote speaker at the Sunday luncheon during PETS and stopped by the District 6490 breakout session to speak with district leaders.



Left: Immediate Past District Governor Connie Walsh had the honor of serving as Rotary International President-Elect Stephanie Ur-

District Governor-Elect Mike Martin addresses district leaders during a District 6490 breakout session.

Rotary Day at the Ball Park

1:15 p.m.,
Saturday, July 13



VS.



Saturday, July 13, is the date set for Rotary Family Day at the Ball Park. The Chicago Cubs will play the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium in St. Louis with a 1:15 p.m. game time. Tickets are \$60, and \$20 from each ticket sold will be returned to Rotary District 6490 clubs for literacy efforts! Tickets can be sold to anyone in your community; attendees do not need to be Rotarians. Please click [here](#) for an order form. Checks should be made payable to Rotary District 6460. Order forms and checks should be mailed to Janet Ellis-Nelson, 1905 Moraine Drive, Champaign, IL 61822. Janet will mail tickets to you upon receipt of your order form and check.

Final Reports Due June 30 for District Grants Received This Rotary Year

If your club received District 6490 District Grant funds in the 2023–2024 Rotary year, plan to complete your grant project before June 30, 2024.

Keep receipts for items purchased with grant funds and take action photos of Rotarians and recipients participating in the project. Complete your Final Report within 30 days of the full expenditure of the grant funds.

Final Report forms can be found on the District 6490 website under the “Community Service” tab, then the “District Grants” section [here](#).

Please submit your final report, along with photos and receipts, to District Grant Chair Marlys Scarbrough: scarbrou@illinois.edu.

Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention Calls on Rotarians To Put ‘Boots on the Ground’ To Prevent Drug Addiction



Larry Kenemore is the Chair of the North America Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention (RAG AP) spoke at the Rotary District 6490 Conference in September.

He traveled from his home in Arkansas to Central Illinois the week of March 11–20 to give presentations to Rotary clubs that expressed interest during the district conference: Champaign, Paris, Mattoon, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise, Clinton, Champaign West, Bloomington-Normal Sunset, Champaign-Urbana Sunrise, Savoy, and at the Presidents-Elect Training in Effingham.

Larry is a former EMT who has been working with Rotary International the past two years to fine-tune a proven addiction prevention program using a multidisciplinary team project approach called Project SMART, which serves to change lives and save lives. SMART stands for School Education, Medicine and Drug Disposal, Awareness, Recovery and Treatment.

Clubs are currently forming committees and scheduling orientations to determine how they will begin in their communities.

Click for a link to an [article](#) in The News-Gazette.

Left: Larry Kenemore speaks at Champaign West Rotary.

Donations Now Being Accepted for The J.A.M.I.E. Boone Project

On February 1, the Arthur Rotary Club hosted a Lunch and Learn presented by Anita and Johnny Boone.

Their son, Jamie, died by suicide last May, just after graduating from the University of Illinois. Everyone who attended was very touched by the Boones' courage to speak about Jamie's death and to create something positive to prevent other people from experiencing what they have.

Rotarians also wanted to know how they could make donations to help. The Community Foundation of East Central Illinois (CFECI) is acting as the Boone's fiscal sponsor until their 501 (c)(3) status is approved.

Donations can be made on CFECI website at <https://cfeci.fcsuite.com/erp/donate>. Donors can use the search bar "Options" to enter **The Jamie Boone Project**.

As donors start typing, the fund name will autofill and selecting it will open the page for donors to enter their credit card information. Checks can also be mailed to: Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, 307 W. University Ave., Champaign, IL 61820. Please write The Jamie Boone Project on the memo line.

Anita and Johnny Boone are happy to speak to Rotary clubs and can be contacted at: a.boon2@hotmail.com and hunter-boone@hotmail.com. Click [here](#) to read their new brochure.





District Foundation Dinner Honors Donors

Each year District 6490 Rotarians who are Bequest Society Members and/or who have made significant donations to The Rotary Foundation are treated to a special dinner recognizing them for their generosity. This year's dinner was held at City View in downtown Champaign.

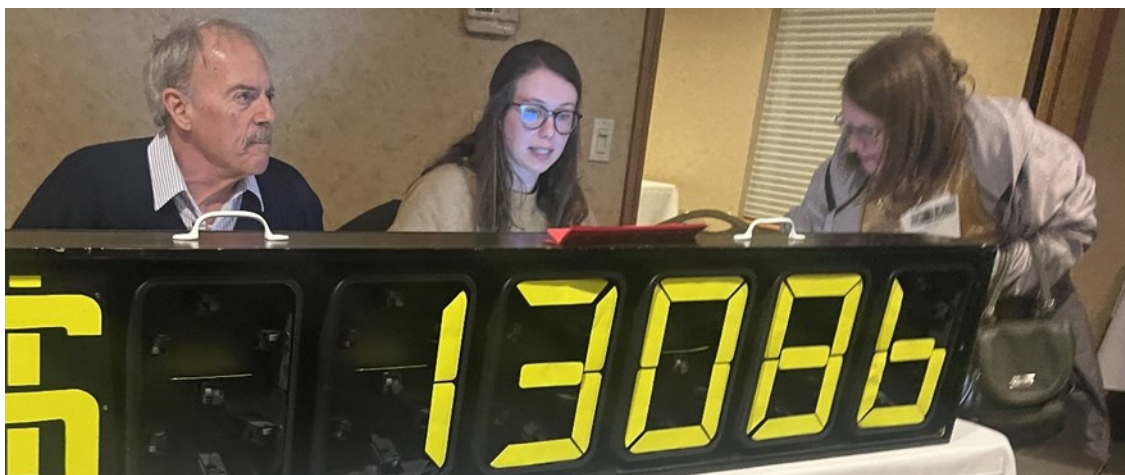


Top: District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson (left) and District Rotary Foundation Chair Larry Howell (right) recognize PDG Jay Stortzum from Champaign Rotary and Winnie Stortzum from Arcola Rotary as Major Donors, Level 3. The Stortzums have made \$50,000 in cumulative donations to The Rotary Foundation over their combined 56 years in Rotary. Jay and Winnie shine as beacons of hope for their generosity to The Rotary Foundation!

Bottom: Pat Messinger, Foundation Co-Chair from Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary (second from right) is recognized by District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson, District Rotary Foundation Chair Larry Howell, and Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club's President Sue Seibring for Meritorious Service to The Rotary Foundation. Pat's tireless efforts and unwavering passion have inspired giving at high levels by the members of Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary to The Rotary Foundation.



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Tuscola Rotary Club Holds Auction

Randy Bergeson, long-time Tuscola Rotarian, and Tuscola native Carly McCory-McKay, check people out at the end of the auction.

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The Shamrock Academy of Irish Dancers, led by Ali Hartline, delighted the audience! Everyone enjoyed the dancers from youngest to the oldest dancers competing for world titles!



Attendees enjoy the predinner social time and passed appetizers. Sandra Calderon, PDG Liz Skinner, and PDG Connie Walsh enjoy the steak kabobs.



PDG Chris Scherer and George Johnston socialize with the view of the city of Champaign in the background.



Attendees enjoyed a wonderful buffet of orange chicken, wild rice, broccoli, stuffed spinach pasta, and rolls. Salads and mini-desserts were plated on the tables.



Blue and gold floral arrangements with DG Janet's "Give the Gift of Rotary" flags adorned tables.

All photos by Bill Warmoth

Like us on Facebook!

Interact Volunteers Make a Difference



Left: Bloomington Central Catholic High School's Interact Club made Foster Care Mom Baskets and delivered them to the Baby Fold. They are sponsored by BN Sunrise Rotary. **Right:** In memory of Austin Cloyd, a former Centennial Interact member who was killed in the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, Centennial Interact members and Champaign Rotarians volunteered at Salt and Light organizing, sorting, and pricing clothes. Some Interact members also visited The Windsor of Savoy and played Uno, Connect 4 and colored with dementia patients.





People in the picture are: Gary Swearingen, Mattoon Rotary Comedy Night Chair, Melissa Pahlke from Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Mary Droste, Charleston Rotary Comedy Night Chair, and Jimmy McHugh, Chicago comedian.

Having Fun for a Great Cause

By Bill Lair, Rotary Club of Charleston

The annual Rotary Comedy Night was held March 23 at the Yost-McKenna Convention Center at the Hilton Garden Inn in Mattoon. This year's Comedy Night was sold out. Rotary clubs in the Charleston-Mattoon area donated \$25,000 to Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center (SBLHC) to finish funding an endowment to pay for heart screenings for high school athletes.

Mattoon Rotarian Gary Swearingen, chair of this year's Rotary Comedy Night, said, "This year's event enables the endowment enough that it will continue to fund the vital heart tests for hundreds of high school athletes in the area for years to come!" Swearingen said Comedy Night began in 1997 and has raised more than \$300,000 in the last 10 years alone.

Since its inception, about 5,000 high school students from 20 high

schools in the Coles County area have received this free, life-saving screening. The tests can show more serious problems that aren't seen in normal physical exams.

In the last two years, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center (SBLHC) officials said, "Sixteen students screened were found to have an abnormal EKG test result and they were directed to see a pediatric cardiologist. Another 26 were found to be anemic."

The screenings, conducted twice a year, generally are offered in November and March. The next round of screenings will be Nov. 2, 2024, and March 1, 2025. Swearingen said, "Local Rotary clubs will continue to contribute \$10,000 a year to the heart screening endowment."

At this year's event, as in most of the past 25 years, Rotary Comedy Night featured comics from The Chicago Comedy All-Stars.

Rotary Alum Publishes Book

Liz Kelly was one of our Rotary Exchange (RYE) students from Charleston in 1995–1996. She spent the year in Antwerp, Belgium, and says, "It was one



of the highlights of my life!" Liz has kept in touch with Charleston Rotary's Bill Lair, who has been involved in RYE since Liz's exchange! She shared with Bill that she just published a book entitled "This Book Is Cheaper Than Therapy: A No-Nonsense Guide to Improving Your Mental Health." Knowing RI President Gordon McNally's emphasis on mental wellness, Bill shared the information with me. I thought before recommending the book to you, I should check it out. It is excellent information for dealing with many of the situations life throws our way! Liz said she wrote the book because in her life as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker she cannot fit in all the people who need to be seen for one-on-one appointments.

She said, "Finding a good therapist is hard. Finding a good therapist you vibe with—and who won't break the bank—is even harder." If you are dealing with a difficult situation and you need to see a therapist, it will be the best money you ever spent! If you just need a little help, "when life feels overwhelming, you need to quiet your inner critic, you need help setting boundaries and maintaining healthy relationships or coping with the pain of grief and loss," this book is for you!

It's available in audio, electronic, and print versions wherever you buy books. Liz's website is lizkellymsw.com, and her email address is liz@lizkellymsw.com.

Rotary

District 6490



DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



SATURDAY MAY 4 2024

CARLE FORUM

611 W Park Street Urbana, IL 61801

8:15 AM

Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM

Welcome

9:20 AM

**General Session: Disaster Response
Presented by Dan Flynn**

9:50 AM

**General Session: Putting International
back in RI Presented by Andréa Fain**

10:20 AM

Break

10:30 AM

**General Session: Rotary Foundation
Presented by Connie Walsh, PDG**

11:00 AM

**General Session: Where We Get The
"Magic" Presented by Mike Martin, DGE**

11:30 AM

Lite Lunch **

11:45 AM

**Committee Breakout: Disaster Response,
Membership, RYE, Assistant Governors.**

1:00 PM

Assembly Ends

*** End of assembly for those not attending committee breakouts



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Angel Traub, Champaign, Sponsored by Dana

Rachel Voss, Champaign, Sponsored by Janet Ellis-Nelson

Judith Loursh, Decatur, Sponsored by Christie Baker

Dan Bolt, Decatur, Sponsored by Christie Baker

Krista Miller, Lincoln, Sponsored by Darlene Begolka

Rita Garman, Champaign, Sponsored by Amy Brown

Charlie Schlenker, Normal, Bruce Bergethon

Tebogo Walsh, BN Sunrise, Sponsored by Steve Schroeder

Nicole Dowling, Champaign, Sponsored by John Kelley

Jane Clegg, Champaign, Sponsored by Janet Ellis-Nelson

Ivan Shchelkanov, Champaign West, sponsored by David Ruzic

Melissa Sisneros, Champaign West, sponsored by Jon Rector

Brittany Smithenry, Effingham Sunrise, sponsored by Becky Brown

Champaign Rotary and Champaign West Rotary Welcome New Members!



Clockwise from left: Champaign Rotary President Carol Timms (far right) welcomes new members Angel Traub and Rachel Voss. **Next:** New Champaign West member Ivan Shchelkanov is introduced by his sponsor, David Ruzic. **Next:** Champaign West Rotarian Jon Rector welcomes new member Melissa Sisneros.



Vandalia Welcomes New Member



Vandalia Rotary Club recently welcomed Matthew Rovenstine into membership. His sponsor was Jay Jolliff. Matthew, a Centralia native, is an investment banker with First National Bank in Vandalia. The Vandalia club meets at noon every Tuesday at Ponderosa for lunch and a program.

Building Participation to The Rotary Foundation through Circles of Giving “Sharing of the Green”

By Pat Messinger, Foundation Co-Chair

To create a culture of sharing, the Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club uses Circles of Giving. We have 14 Circles of Giving. Each Circle has 8 to 10 members who agree to support The Rotary Foundation with an annual gift of \$100. Most donate \$10 monthly through Rotary Direct. One time per year, we invite Circle members to share some of their recognition points with members of their Circle. To start this process, I send out an email in January to members of each circle:

To: Circle of Giving #5 (David B., Raymond L, Brady L, Ben M, Katie M, Tony M, Mark M, Megan R, Laura P, Brian S)

From: Pat Messinger, Foundation Co-Chair

Re: Recognition Points sharing

Action: RSVP, please

The Rotary Foundation Committee honors your Circle of Giving each year by sharing Recognition Points with the members of your Circle. This email is to ask your permission to share some of your Recognition Points with members of your Circle of Giving. If agreed, you may grant permission by responding to this email.

What are Recognition Points? Every \$1 you give to the Rotary Foundation generates one point for your Paul Harris Fellowship journey and one Recognition Point to share. Recipients of shared points within your Circle are honored with a Paul Harris Plus award at our annual Foundation meeting; this year on Tuesday, March 19. Over the course of several years, all members of your Circle of Giving will be recipients of shared Recognition Points.

*Rotarians around the world, including you, support the following global and local needs through Rotary Foundation, Rotary International**

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Rotary Foundation Awards Presented



District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson (left), Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary's Foundation Cochair Aimee Bean, and President Sue Seibring (far right) present Paul Harris Awards to (left to right): Tracy Patkunas +4, Erin Jennings +1, Roger Elliott +4, Sammi Kern +1, Lilly Krueger – Paul Harris Fellow, Amber Gruenloh +3, and Gayle Dustman +3.



Clockwise from above: Champaign West Rotary President A.J. Thoma III (left) and District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson (right) present a Major Donor, Level 1 crystal and pins to Mid and Richard Riggs. The Riggs have made cumulative donations of \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation to earn this recognition. Even more amazing is that they will celebrate 55 years of marriage in September! **Next:** District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson presents Paul Harris Society Membership certificates and chevrons to Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary member Dave Selzer and President Sue Seibring. Dave and Sue have pledged and contributed \$1,000 annually to The Rotary Foundation. **Next:** Champaign West Rotary President A.J. Thoma III presents a Paul Harris Fellow +5 to President-Nominee Shawna Benton.



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<https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation> (Fighting disease, Promoting peace, Providing clean water, Saving mothers and children, Supporting education, Growing

local economies, Protecting the environment, Supporting LOCAL projects through the District Grants, provided by the district as a result of our contributions to TRF Annual Fund.) Kindly respond to this email to allow us to share some (not all) of your Recognition Points within your Circle of Giv-

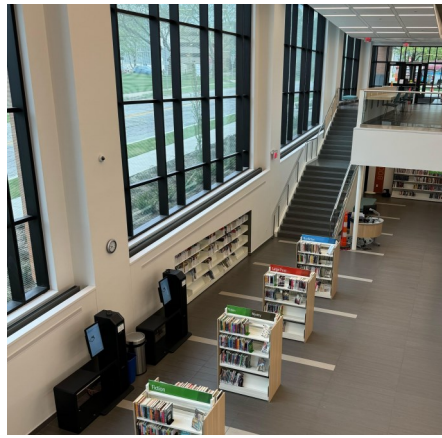
ing. Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you for your consideration,
Pat Messinger, Foundation Co-Chair



B-N Sunrise Board Members Tour Renovated Library

The board members of Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary recently took an exclusive tour of the newly redesigned Bloomington Public Library. From exploring the innovative features to witnessing the ongoing finishing touches, it was an enriching experience for all. Additionally, the Rotary clubs of Bloomington Normal donated financial resources for the Book Shop, supporting literacy initiatives in the community.



GROWING ROTARY

Mike and Breelyn Menzer Corzine, members of Bloomington-Normal Sunset Rotary took the directive to "Grow Rotary" very seriously! They happily announced the upcoming birth of their baby boy at their March 13 meeting. Some of you may recall that Mike proposed to Bree during the 2018 District 6490 Conference in Springfield!



B-N Sunrise Donates to Homeless Shelter



Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary recently donated and presented a check to Home Sweet Home to cover the costs for one year for the outdoor toilets and personal lockers indoors for those out-placed and staying in the encampments.