



Rotary
District 6490



Spring, is that you?

Well, here we are just three weeks away from spring and enjoying the tease of warmer weather.

This past week we saw almost 70° in Central Illinois and we started wondering where we put away our shorts only to be disappointed by a low of 7° a few nights later. Where did I hide my winter coat?

Besides looking forward to warmer weather, March will also bring two major events to District 6490.

The first is Land of Lincoln President's Elect Training Seminar (LOLPETS) on March 15 & 16, at the Thelma Keller Convention Center, in Effingham.

For those unfamiliar with LOLPETS, it is training specific to preparing district President-Elects' transition to the Governor's role.

Four Districts (6490, 6510, 6560, and 6580) come together annually in Effingham, for training and fellowship. The event also has sessions for Assistant Governors and President-Nominees.

On Sunday, March 15, Rotary International President-Elect Mario Cesar Martens de Camargo and RI Director-Elect Brian Hall will be speaking.

Even if you are not attending PETS as a trainee, limited reservations are available for these presentations.

And, FYI - Those arriving on Friday or helping set up our breakout room that afternoon will be happy to know DGE John Calderon has arranged dinner and a wine tasting that evening, where we can socialize, enjoy wine, cheese, pizza, and much more. The evening is coordinated by the Effingham Rotary Clubs as a membership drive for their clubs.

The other major event this month is our District's Legacy Dinner in Bloomington on March 29.

The LEGACY DINNER is an invitation-only event open to Rotarians who contribute to The Rotary Foundation new outright gifts and bequests of \$10,000 or more as part of this event.

Our goal is to raise more than \$1 million dollars of which more than

\$600,000 has already been committed.

The LEGACY DINNER meal and entertainment will be provided. Our speaker will be Past Rotary International President Mark Maloney.

Seats "at the table" are still available.

If you would like to make an important philanthropic impact on our Foundation, please contact me at 217-259-3120 or mike.rotary649@gmail.com to discuss. But, do it quickly. The campaign ends March 21st.

Both of these major events are significant and impactful for our members, clubs, District 6490, and beyond!

I hope you will participate in both of these events. I look forward to seeing you.

As always, be kind. It costs nothing.

Mike Martin

Rotary District 6490

District Governor 2024-2025

LAND of LINCOLN Rotary
PRESIDENT-ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR
 DISTRICTS 6490 • 6510 • 6560 • 6580
www.lolpets.org

**Land of Lincoln
 President Elect Training Seminar
 Plan to Succeed: Your Year Starts NOW!**

WHO: President Elects
 President Nominees
 Assistant Governors (incoming & current)

WHERE: Holiday Inn, Effingham

WHEN: March 15-16, 2025
 8:30 am Saturday to approx. 1:00 pm Sunday

The Match Is on—Amplify Your Impact Through April 30

March is here, and so is your chance to make a huge difference!

Rotary District 6490 is making a special offer. Anytime between now and April 30, your personal contribution between \$100 and \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus Fund and/or Annual Fund will be matched 1-to-1 with Rotary Foundation Recognition Points. This means you can fast-track your way to becoming a Paul Harris Fellow or level up to the next milestone twice as fast!

Why now? Your support is more critical than ever, and with this limited-time match, your contribution will go even further. Plus, your donation could bring you closer to your next Paul Harris Fellow level!

Example: Rotarian Mary makes a \$500 donation to Polio Plus and receives 500 PHF points. A matching cash donation is made to the Polio Plus fund, and 500 points will be transferred to her account upon request.

You can give by completing the form on this page and mailing it to:

6490 TRF Matching Gifts Campaign
Connie Walsh
3806 Glenn Brooke Rd.
Champaign, IL 61822

Or you can make a payment online at <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give>.

Note: You need a My Rotary account to give through Rotary Direct. [Click here](#) for easy set-up instructions.

Don't wait—act today! Every action makes a real difference.

Thank you for supporting our

Rotary Foundation and the Polio Plus Fund!

As this is a Rotary Foundation recognition points match, the match does not increase your Major Giving totals, which must be cash (no points) and starts at a lifetime giving amount of \$10,000. But we would still

encourage you Major Donors to continue to give each year!

Have questions? Please contact Deb West at dwestrotary6490@gmail.com.

A limited number of points are available. Don't miss this opportunity!

Rotary District 6490 Matching Points Campaign 2025

For Donations to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund-Share or Polio-Plus
March 1 through April 30, 2025

Remember – You receive Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) Recognition Amount (RA) points equal to your contribution automatically from The Rotary Foundation (TRF). You also receive Foundation Recognition Points (FRPs), that you can only give away to another individual, equal to your contribution, from TRF.

This campaign will match the RA points generated by your contribution. You may choose to keep them for yourself or give them to someone else. You may also give some of your FRPs to that individual if you wish. Just fill out the requested information below and answer the questions:

Your Name: _____ Your Rotary ID: _____

Your street address: _____ Your City: _____

Your Zip: _____ Your email: _____

Your Rotary Club: _____ Your daytime phone: _____

Please indicate how much of your contribution should be allocated to:

\$ _____ Annual Fund – Share \$ _____ Polio Plus (Please add to check your total amount, below)

Total amount: \$ _____ Do you wish to keep the PHF match points: Yes No

If you marked No, to whom should they be given (if they do not have a Rotary ID, mark it as "none"):

Their Name: _____ Their Rotary ID: _____

Their street address: _____ Their City: _____

Their Zip: _____ Their email: _____

Their Rotary Club: _____ Their daytime phone: _____

Do you wish to donate additional points from your personal FRPs total to the same person?

No Yes If you marked Yes, how many points do you wish to transfer? _____

Check Number _____ or Online Gift Date _____ Club Number _____

Checks attached to this form should be made out to "The Rotary Foundation". You may also go online and donate via credit card - please attach the acknowledgment email to this form.

If you are submitting a check, please mail it to:

D6490 TRF Matching Gifts Campaign
c/o Connie Walsh
3806 Glenn Brooke Rd
Champaign, IL 61822

If you are donating online, please scan the form and email it (with the acknowledgment email) to:

dwestrotary6490@gmail.com

RYLA Speaker Lineup; Volunteers Needed!

The 2025 RYLA committee has three outstanding young women speaking at RYLA this year! These young people are sure to motivate and impress the RYLA students! A fun, exciting, and inspiring program has been lined up, and now it's up to you and your club to find students to attend! RYLA is the fastest and easiest way for your club to change young lives in your community. Please contact your local high school teachers, principals, church youth groups, home-schooled students, parents and other family members for high school juniors, sophomores, and seniors to attend. Students are looking for opportunities and RYLA is not to be missed! Any Rotarian in District 6490 can pass along the information. RYLA organizers will work on the particulars. Don't forget to contact your students from last year and make sure your RYE student has signed up. An email has gone out to them, but a reminder from you could be the encouragement they need to sign up.

RYLA needs volunteers. Four male overnight counselors are needed to stay in heated cabins with male students. Overnight counselors need to be present at a minimum from dinner through breakfast. Also needed are several Rotarians to participate in mock interviews with the juniors from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 5. To a lesser extent, two people need to be present from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. to check in the students as they arrive on Friday, April 4.

As of Tuesday, Feb. 25, there were 20 students signed up for RYLA. The RYLA committee is hoping for 80 students so that the camp will break even. Looking back on RYLA's history, there were 129 students in 2016. There is no excuse for us not to have that many again! Analyzing the data further, the small clubs are doing an outstanding job in finding students. Arthur leads the pack with a total of eight students signed up; Monticello has four students; Decatur has two; Charleston two; Tuscola, Arcola, Effingham, and Bloomington-Normal each have one. Some of these students are RYE. The camp is mandatory for them. If your club only sends a RYE student, the club will pay for that student's camp fee. If the same club sends two students, the RYE student is paid for by the district. What a bargain! If any club wants Tanya Walker or Kim Denton (RYLA Co-Chairs) to speak in person or via Zoom to the club, a principal, guidance counselor, etc., please let us know: Tanya Walker: ibtanyawalker@gmail.com or Kim Denton: kamorris@illinois.edu.

More RYLA details in last month's newsletter. Camp organizers are happy to answer your questions! Camp link: <https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/App/?ID=280>.

RYLA application: <https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/App/?ID=280>.

Friday Night: Zoe Bouras

Zoe Bouros is a RYE rebound from Arthur who went on exchange to Peru. She is a RYLA alum and recently joined MG+M in O'Fallon, IL in the law firm's asbestos practice group. In 2018, Zoe graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University, majoring in political science and international studies. She attended St. Antony's College, University of Oxford, England, where she earned her degree in Latin American studies in 2019. She graduated from the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis in 2024.



Saturday Morning: Makenna Green

Makenna Green resides in Arthur, where she works alongside her family on their row crop farm—representing the sixth generation in her family to do so. Makenna is the farm agronomist but gets involved in all aspects of managing the business, from operating equipment to human resources and social media. Her family also operates Flatland Farmer Innovations and Heritage Prints (a screen printing company)! On her own time, she and her brother, Beau, run Heritage Puppies, where they raise and sell Cavapoo and English Cream Doodle puppies! She also helps her fiancé, Luke, with Frantz Cattle Company, where they primarily background calves. Makenna has a true passion for agriculture and educating others about all that ag has to offer. To do this, Makenna is also on the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Board and serves as the pageant director. In 2019, Makenna received a FFA Star Farmer Illinois State Degree.



Saturday Night: Pearle A. Peterson

Pearle Peterson is an accomplished soloist and musical theatre actress, having partnered and represented multiple organizations and brands, including Major League Baseball, NASCAR, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and Ross: Dress for Less. A native of Sequim, WA, Pearle has become a national title-winning vocalist. She sang the National Anthem for the second game of the 2023 World Series—the youngest person in American history to achieve that honor. She is currently in the Bachelor of Musical Arts in Lyric Theatre Program at the University of Illinois.



Essay Contest Open to High School Juniors & Seniors

Rotary District 6490 Literacy and Education Committee is holding a writing competition for high school juniors and seniors. First prize is \$500; second place earns \$250.

Students may write about any of the following topics:

- How do you envision your future personal and professional life and the world being affected by AI (Artificial Intelligence)? Go into detail.
- In the past, military and government officials were considered heroes and commemorated with statues erected in their honor. Today those individuals are viewed through the lens of current societal standards. Should the focus on the past be based on the cultural norms at the time or the current cultural climate?

Should the government continue to uphold those monuments, or should they remove them? Share your thoughts on this subject.

- You've read a book, read about someone in the newspaper, or you've had an outstanding teacher. Has someone or something influenced the way you think or your whole outlook on life?

Polio Update As of Feb. 11

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases										
	Full year total								01 Jan-11 Feb ¹		Date of most recent case
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025		
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	73	0	1	07-Jan-25	
Afghanistan	21	29	56	4	2	6	25	0	0	05-Nov-24	
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	10-Aug-22	
Malawi	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	19-Nov-21	
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	
Total (Type 1)	33	176	140	6	30	12	98	0	1		
Tot. in endemic countries	33	176	140	5	22	12	98	0	1		
Tot. in non-end countries	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0		
No. of countries (infected)	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	0	1		
No. of countries (endemic)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Total Female	18	72	59	2	10	4	42	0	0		
Total Male	15	104	81	4	20	8	56	0	1		


&


2025 Speaker Series

All Rotarians, Women United Members & Guests are Invited to Participate
Each Event will be held at Rob Dob's Restaurant in Bloomington beginning with Lunch at 11:30 a.m. and Speaker presentation at 12:00. Lunch is \$25 and includes entree, water, iced tea or soft drink along with tax and tip.

- JANUARY 10, 2025** *Deanna Frautschi & David Allen "Top 7 Tips You Can Use to Support a Cause You Love"*
- FEBRUARY 21, 2025** *Jenette Jurczyk "How We Women Tell Our Stories...and Inspire Others"*
- MARCH 21, 2025** *Dr. Matilde Francois & Colleen Kannaday "Early Detection of High Risk Breast Cancer & New CARLE Support Programs"*
- APRIL 11, 2025** *Dr. Roy Magnuson & Dr. Raj Ramesh "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Brings High-Touch & High-Tech to Our Society"*
- MAY 9, 2025** *Paula Mitchell "Leadership Courage"*
- JUNE 13, 2025** *Sonja Reece "Community Health Care Clinic...a Hidden Gem"*

For more information, contact Pat Grosso, Assistant to Julie Dobski, grossopat27@gmail.com

<p style="text-align: center;">Rotary Mission Statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Women United - Mission Statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Women United partners with United Way of McLean County, to positively impact our community through service initiatives and networking opportunities.</i></p>
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D6490 Rotarians' Annual Service Trip to Mexico

This past February, Rotarians from three clubs in District 6490 participated in a weeklong service trip in communities located in and around Guadalajara, Mexico.

This annual trip, commonly referred to as the Rotary International Service Trip, brings together Rotarians interested in volunteering from throughout the United States who work side-by-side with Rotarians from Mexico's District 4140 to provide essential health services through basic medical clinics, dental, and vision exams.

While the clinics are being conducted, a construction team is at work making needed improvements and repairs to the school hosting the clinics.

The 2025 Service Trip team included 28 Rotarians from 15 clubs representing five districts in the United States.

They were joined by more than 25 Rotarians and volunteers in Guadalajara

for four days at four different schools with more than 2,700 students.

Not only were the families of the students invited to visit the medical, vision, and dental clinics, but so were local community members.

Members from District 6490 included DG Mike Martin (Mattoon) who checked-in individuals visiting the medical clinic; IPDG Janet Ellis-Nelson (Champaign) who was part of the vision clinic team and tested individuals for glasses; District International Service Committee Chair, Andr ea Fain (Champaign) who managed the pharmacy and assisted with the overall team logistics; President Doug Nelson, (Champaign) and ADG Kenton Elmore, (Champaign West) who were part of the construction team.

While four days of service to communities in Guadalajara have an exceptional impact for the short timeframe

involved, statistics cannot reflect how much the experience of being part of this annual trip has on each Rotarian.

At the end of each day, stories are shared that provide the reasons why this service trip has become an annual event for many team members. The lives touched; the smiles and hugs that are received; the friendships that are made are only a few of the reasons why one week each year is now reserved on many Rotarians' calendars for the 'Rotary International Service Trip'.

Interested in learning about the 2026 Service Trip and how you could become involved?

Send your inquiries to District International Service Committee Chair Andr ea Fain at andrea.fain@gmail.com.





Buckets of Living Water! – When DG Mike Martin visited D6490 clubs this past year, he mentioned this annual Service Trip and how having access to clean drinking water is challenging for some residents in the Guadalajara region, an area nestled between two mountain ranges, Sierra Madre Occidental and Sierra Madre del Sur.

For some, especially residents living in the higher altitude remote villages of these mountain ranges, a Sawyer water filter attached to a 5-gallon bucket can efficiently purify water that would otherwise be dangerous to drink because of the bacterial contaminants.

Knowing how water filtration is a main issue for the residents of Guadalajara region, DG Martin highlighted their need while on D6490 2024-2025 club visits and collected enough donations from D6490 Rotarians and clubs that 100 Sawyer water filters, 100 5-gallon buckets, and 8 in-line water filters for schools were purchased and handed out during the week-long Service Trip.

Thank you to all who contributed to the water filter project when DG Martin visited your club!

Mahomet, Fairbury Clubs Have New Paul Harris Fellows



Rotary Club of Mahomet has four new Paul Harris Fellows. Pictured at left are current President Mary Ann Matthews; Brii Buchanan, one of the club's newest members; President-Elect Dr. Kenny Lee; and immediate Past President John Howard. The club's Foundation Chair, Mark Kesler, helped get the fellowships completed.

Below: Fairbury Rotarian Ray Popejoy was presented a Paul Harris recognition for his support of Rotary. His award was achieved by a gift of points earned by his wife, Susan.



- Melinda Carleton, Tuscola
- Dylan Kleiss, Tuscola
- Yelyzaveta Paskevych, Clinton
- Daniel Douglas, Champaign (West)
- Steven Graham, Mahomet
- Angela Hampton, Mattoon
- David Helm, Lincoln
- Bryan McCannon, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
- Mike Meidel, Champaign (West)
- Michael Pile, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
- Joel Wallace, Champaign

New Members in DACdb as of Feb 25th

Essay Contest Cont.

- The Rev., Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had his “I have a dream” speech. What is your dream for your life and the world you will live in? Go into detail.
- Many people view homelessness solely as a big-city problem. Do you believe homelessness is equally serious in smaller communities? What suggestions do you have for local governments to solve the problem?

Members of the Rotary District 6490 Literacy and Education Committee will judge essays submitted using the following criteria: Originality and Creativity, Subject Knowledge, High Level of Language Usage and Writing Skills, and Conventions (adherence to grammar, spelling, punctuation, format rules, etc.)

Any high school junior or senior who places first or second will be recognized at the District Installation on June 14 in Rantoul.

Entries must be received by March 17.

Join Leaders, Exchange Ideas, and Take Action at District RLI on May 10

The District will be hosting the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) on Saturday, May 10, at Richland Community College in Decatur.

Open to all Rotarians, RLI is designed for those Rotarians who have the potential and willingness to engage in future club leadership, not necessarily as club presidents. RLI increases your Rotary knowledge and leadership skills and helps you make connections with Rotarians around the District—learning about their successes and experiences in their clubs.

The Rotary Leadership Institute is a multidistrict, grassroots leadership development program using facilitation in small groups to engage Rotarians and strengthen clubs. Begun in New Jersey in 1992 by club Rotarians, its purpose is to help future club leaders prepare for their club and community leadership role through a quality training and educational experience. The RLI has spread to more than 115 districts in numerous countries because local clubs recognize the importance of training future leaders. The RLI provides an opportunity to learn about the exciting



world of Rotary with its more than 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

The leadership skills you obtain at an RLI event will help you in your involvement in Rotary as well as your leadership efforts professionally.

Join us for the next RLI:

When: Saturday, May 10, 2025

Check in: 8:30 a.m.

Program: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Richland Community College, Decatur

Educational materials, as well as a light breakfast, drinks, and lunch are



included in the \$60 registration fee. Many clubs sponsor members who are interested in attending RLI.

To register: Go to <https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77816392>.

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code that accompanies this article.

Registration must be completed no later than Tuesday, May 6, as each session has a maximum number of participants. If you have any questions, please contact RLI Chair, Cindy Guthrie at district6490rli@gmail.com.

Rotary Comedy Night Planned for March 22

Rotary Comedy Night will be held on Saturday, March 22, at the Yost Convention Center of the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 Coles Centre Parkway, Mattoon.

This evening of fun and comedy will start at 5:45 p.m. with a cocktail hour. The comedy night performance featuring the Chicago All-Stars starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$50 at the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation or from Rotarians. The proceeds help

to support an endowment for the Rotary High School Athletic Heart Screening program for 15- to 17-year-old student athletes, money for physicals and equipment for high school athletes, and other important Mattoon and Charleston Rotary Club activities.



















For more information, call the Foundation at 217-258-2511.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Rotarians are encouraged to submit news and information (including articles and photos) regarding grants, service projects, social events, fundraisers, community collaborations, gifts, new members, and initiatives to share the good news and good work with others in our district. The deadline for submissions to be included in the next newsletter is the third week of each month. Please email content for the newsletter to Newsletter Editor: Christine Walsh (Savoy)

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Rotarians' Annual Service Trip to Mexico IMPACT!

Rotarians from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbus, MS • Greenville, MS • Kosciusko, MS • Madison-Ridgeland, MS • Natchez, MS • North Jackson, MS • Starkville, MS • Champaign, IL • Champaign West, IL • Mattoon, IL • Greater Huntsville, AL • Athens, TX • Marshall, TX • South Tyler, TX • Medford, OR • Zapopan, MX • Tlaquepaque Industrial • Guadalajara AC, MX • Zacoalco de Torres, MX 	 6 Districts	39,000 USD 	4 Schools in Days Improved infrastructure	 + 10,000 Beneficiaries		
	 +50 Volunteers	 Rotary Service Trip		593  Visual Services		
	481  Medical Services	238  Vaccines	100  Water Filters	225  Dental Services	1,496  Medicines	
Areas of Interest						
 Water & sanitation	 Environment	 Economic & community development	 Basic education & literacy	 Peace & conflict prevention	 Disease prevention & treatment	 Maternal and child health