



## "If You Can Read This, You're Too Close!"

*Price Finley, District Governor*

We've all seen this bumper sticker intended to tell tailgaters to BACK OFF! While I have never displayed such a sticker on my bumper, I certainly have experienced being irritated by a rude driver. I've even spoken a not-so-nice message aloud (within my Prius), like, "Are you #@\*%-ing kidding me?" to the driver who thinks it's so important to get wherever they are going that they need to drive dangerously close behind me (don't they know I get a better eco-score by accelerating slowly when the light turns green!). Now that I'm DG, my reactions have changed, because now, I see everything through "Rotary-colored" glasses (by the way, the color is **PURPLE!**). So, when I saw that same bumper sticker recently, "If You Can Read This, You're Too Close," I thought, "What about people who have never learned to read?"



Rotary has a theme for each month of the year, and September's theme is "Basic Education and Literacy." It's a month when we should especially confront the fact that over 775 million people worldwide over the age of 15 are illiterate - that's 17% of the world's adult population. In the United States, 21% of adults are illiterate today, and 54% of adults have a literacy level below the 6th grade. There are many reasons why this is not OK. One is that low levels of literacy cost the U.S. up to \$2.2 trillion per year. In our state of Ohio, 63% of 4th grade students are not reading proficiently, and 80% of lower income 4th grade students are not reading proficiently! (This is not just a socio-economic issue, as 48% of higher income 4th grade students are not proficient.) These are staggering statistics! Let's say it together, "Are you #@\*%-ing kidding me?"

Rotary clubs throughout District 6690 are taking steps to improve literacy rates in our communities. Each year, several of our clubs give third and fourth grade students their very own dictionary and education-related resources such as backpacks. Rotary members volunteer their time to tutor and read to elementary school children in their communities. Rotary clubs are changing the lives of young people by providing scholarships. We can be proud of

the impact we are making in "Supporting Education," one of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus. In fact, of all the applications for grants from "District Designated Funds" that have been submitted by clubs for the current Rotary year, more than half are directed at basic education and literacy.\*

We know that higher literacy rates reduce economic stress, and that opening schools, teaching adults to read, making schools healthy, and enhancing educational systems help to break the cycle of poverty and social imbalance. Literacy is also important to one of Rotary's other Areas of Focus - "Promoting Peace." I found a great overview of the importance of education in promoting peace on the website for the [Central Asia Institute](#), which supports education in remote, impoverished areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. The institute lists 10 ways that education promotes peace:

- Boosting confidence and hope
- Promoting independent thinking
- Inspiring problem-solving skills
- Building communication skills
- Opening doors for career advancement
- Reducing poverty

### In This Issue

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- Increasing political involvement
- Reducing support of terrorism and militancy
- Building empathy and tolerance
- Cultivating respect

Our very own District 6690 Peace Committee is emphasizing the connection between education and peace. This committee, chaired by [Tom Carlisi](#) (Rotary Club of Columbus), is focusing the fall session of its [Peace Symposium Series](#) on "Basic Education and Literacy." I strongly encourage you to join us on Saturday, September 10th starting at 10am (Click [HERE](#) to register).

This Committee has developed a partnership with the Ohio Chapter of "[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)," a program that sends a book every month to any child under five - free of charge - regardless of socio-economic status. This project will be featured in the upcoming peace symposium. Dolly recently visited Columbus to promote this program, and several of our Rotary clubs have already started projects in their communities. Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine has announced a goal of adding 17,000 kids across Ohio to this wonderful program by the end of 2022. IMAGINE how many children might sign up to receive books if our clubs help spread the word!

As your District Governor, I see firsthand all of the amazing dedication of our clubs and Rotary members in making an impact on education. Thank you for being as excited as I am about these programs.

And, remember - **STOP TAILGATING!** *[If you can read this, thank a Rotarian.]*

-Price

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*\* An important side-note is that our District's ability to provide up to \$2,000 from District Designated Funds for club projects is thanks to donations to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund-SHARE by Rotarians in OUR DISTRICT. More about that in November, for which the monthly theme is The Rotary Foundation!*

## Project Update: Polio Plus

### *Rotary statement on recent polio detections in U.S., Europe*

The recent detection of the vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 case in New York, USA, and isolated in several environmental samples collected in London are stark reminders that as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat everywhere. As noted by Rotary International, "the best things countries can do to protect themselves from polio until the disease is eradicated from the world are to: maintain high vaccination coverage and robust disease surveillance and be ready to respond in the event of an outbreak to minimize the risk and consequences of polio re-introduction or re-emergence anywhere."

- [Read More](#) from Rotary International
- [Read More](#) from Wired Magazine, *Polio Is Back in the US and UK. Here's How That Happened*

The wild poliovirus remains endemic in two countries: Afghanistan (1 case in 2022) and Pakistan (14 cases in 2022).

**"Polio vaccination requires several doses to create full protection, and once that occurs, children are protected against both wild-type and vaccine-derived versions of the virus."**

-Wired

## Fall 2022 Peace Symposium, Focus Area: Basic Education & Literacy.

*From Tom Carlisi, District Peace Chair*

RD6690 invites all Rotary Clubs and their Community Partners to join us for our

### Fall 2022 Peace Symposium, Focus Area: Basic Education & Literacy.

Learn updates on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program – and more!



## Basic Education & Literacy

**September 10, 2022**  
**10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time, USA**

### Keynote Speakers



Jennifer Best  
CFO  
*Dolly Parton's Imagination  
Library of Ohio  
Dublin-Worthington Rotary*



Jerry Wear  
*Past District Governor, RD6780  
Rotary Club of Pigeon Forge*



Ariungoo Kh  
President, Rotary Club of  
UB Peace Ave.  
RD3450  
*Let's Read Mongolia*

FEATURING





This is a FREE, ON-LINE event - via Zoom only.

<https://rotary6690.org/>

training-events/peace- symposium

## Westerville Sunrise Rotary- Peacebuilder Project-2021-2022

*By Paul Kulik, Westerville Sunrise Peacebuilder Chair*

**Goal-** To establish mini-libraries in the homes of 60 families of Westerville Preschool in which there is a lack of literacy materials are not readily available.

**Rationale-** In the homes of many of our preschool students, books and literacy materials are not available due to economic conditions, especially in immigrant homes and where staff have identified cognitive delays in their students. In an effort to enhance success of these students as they enter kindergarten, our committee proposed to provide a summer reading program for students with the stated goal to increase readiness for kindergarten in the Westerville City Schools.



**Research-** There is a significant body of research that early intervention with literacy skills with young students enhances their confidence, promotes self-esteem, and promotes readiness for a successful experience in kindergarten and throughout the elementary years and beyond. Because many of our preschool students are from immigrant families, we want to utilize texts that represent their cultures and heritage while these young people interact and learn within a multi-cultural environment representing their backgrounds.

**Resources Utilized-** We involved literacy experts, including Westerville Public Library staff, Westerville Preschool staff, Ohio Literacy Council, etc. In addition, we want our families to register for Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library," supported by First Lady of Ohio Fran DeWine in which students from birth to five are sent books monthly (free of charge) to encourage a love of literature and enhance reading skills- a key to success in the academic setting.

**Funding of this project-** It was estimated that a budget of \$10,000.00 was needed to accomplish the goal of providing 60 families with mini-libraries for summer enrichment and skill-building. We were able to secure grants through District 6690, the Westerville Sunrise Rotary, and sponsorships of families through the Sunrise and Noon Rotaries at a cost of \$25,00/family.

**Identification of Literacy Materials-** A subcommittee of Peacebuilders secured recommendations from the Public Library and the Westerville Preschool staff as well as the Ohio Literacy Council. The emphasis was to share literacy materials that model multicultural individuals that demonstrate diversity, inclusion and highlight students of all colors and backgrounds being successful in academic settings.

**Identification of Participating Families-** We requested recommendations from the preschool staff and its director-Suzanne Kile. We sent a letter to parents/guardians asking them to establish a daily schedule to read and discuss literacy materials throughout the summer. Sixty families were identified and each provided a mini-library.

**Examples of titles selected-** "My First Library," "I am Enough," "Love Makes a Family," "Whose Knees are These," "What Color is My

Hijab," "It's Okay to be Different"

**Donations**-Drawstring Book Bags were donated by Chase Bank, State Farm Insurance, and Morgan Stanley

**Assembly**- Members of the Peacebuilder Committee assembled bags at the Preschool on Eastwind Dr. They were distributed to students during the final week of the school year. A list of Parent Tips for Reading, a personal note from committee members, and a letter from the chairperson was included.



**Evaluation of this project**-Within the mini-library bookbags was an evaluation that will be analyzed at the end of the summer in order to determine success, a need for changes and a discussion with kindergarten teachers regarding suggestions for future projects.

## Imagine: Projects That Inspire

Attend RO-Talks on September 24

## You Joined Rotary To Make A Difference.

RO-Talks Has Been Designed To Help You Do Exactly That.

### Join us Sept 24:

Inspire and collaborate to define high-impact projects.

Workshop with Rotarians to refine project ideas and create realistic plans.



*Then, on*

**October 13:**

Prepare a pitch to win funding from the district.

**SharkTank Style!**

### Register Today...Make A Difference Tomorrow

**Saturday, Sept 24, 2022 9AM to 2PM**

Bricker & Eckler, 100 S. Third St., Columbus

[www.rotary6690.org/training-events/fall-training-event](http://www.rotary6690.org/training-events/fall-training-event)



SCAN ME

- Learn about projects that are making a big impact in our communities right now.
- Come share your service project idea with experienced Rotarians who have put together hundreds of successful projects.
  - Bring a new service project idea or build on an existing project to make it bigger, broader and more impactful.
  - Your project can be local, national or international.
  - Projects must be executed this Rotary year.
- Get advice and support to take your idea from concept to a well-planned strategy.
- Then (in October) pitch your plan for a chance to earn up to \$5000 to fund your project!

#### Registration -

\$25 per attendee, includes lunch

**REGISTER NOW**

**Saturday September 24, 2022**  
**9 am to 2 pm**

Doors open at 8am  
Program starts at 9am  
Offices of Bricker & Eckler  
100 S. Third St. Downtown Columbus

## **2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia**



### **Get ready to Imagine What's Next with Rotary!**

With the success of the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, our first in-person convention since 2019, we're more excited than ever about meeting again at the 2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, 27-31 May. Join us in this beautiful city to connect with other people of action. We'll hear from great speakers, enjoy fantastic entertainment, take part in inspirational breakout sessions, and so much more.

Did you know that if you register today you'll receive the reduced rate? Don't wait — pay in full by 15 December, when this rate expires.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to share your passion for Rotary with fellow members in Melbourne. We can't wait to see you there!



## Service

# Sock-tober Service Project

*by Wolf Lant and Sandy Knoesel, District Service Project Committee Co-Chairs*



As fall brings chilly weather, District 6690 invites our 3,100+ members to participate in a new district-wide service project – **Sock-tober**.

"Sock-tober is our first district-wide service project this Rotary year that will make a positive impact in our community," explained District Governor Price Finley. "We are challenging each other to help the homeless in our respective communities by donating new men's and women's athletic socks to various non-profit organizations to help keep those in need warm this winter."

The BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) for Sock-tober is to **collect at least 3,200 pairs of socks – one for each Rotarian** in our district. The Sock-tober service project runs Oct. 1 – 31. Clubs are asked to go to the link <https://forms.gle/VsmuD3PKEy4U57oz6> to record the total number of sock pairs collected by Nov. 11. Along with bragging rights, the three clubs that collect the most pairs of new socks (per club member) during the month will be announced by District Governor Price via email. Winners also will be featured in the District 6690 newsletter in December.

During September, club service project leaders are encouraged to contact homeless shelters in their community to develop plans for donating the socks. Organizations in the Columbus metropolitan area that may need sock donations include:

- Homeless Families Foundation
- Salvation Army
- Sanctuary Night
- Star House
- The Open Shelter





To highlight the Sock-tober service project, club volunteers are encouraged to upload photographs of the collected socks and the donation to your local non-profit agency, after entering the total pairs of socks collected in the link provided. These photos will be used to show how much fun Rotarians have helping others.

Get creative! Have some fun! Challenge another Rotary Club!

For more information about the Sock-tober service project, contact Wolf Lant at [wolf@compucorp.net](mailto:wolf@compucorp.net) or call 614-579-2667. Members of the District 6690 Service Project Committee are Wolf Lant, Dublin AM; Amanda Bowen, Columbus; Bill Grindle, Worthington Am; and Sandy Knoesel, Columbus.

## Youth Exchange - Inbound Students!

*By Marie Hurt, District Youth Exchange Officer*

Our 6 inbound exchange students have arrived!



They come from Mexico, Columbia, Taiwan, Japan, Finland, and Brazil.

Welcome to our Inbound Students, and thanks to the host clubs and host families!

*Clubs that are not hosting are missing out on a wonderful experience to bring to their communities!*

# Outbound Students:

The first event for interested outbound students is [September 10 at Camp Mary Orton](#). We'd love to see American students interested in going abroad next summer for short-term or next school year 2023-24. The application process starts Sept 10!

- 1PM Saturday - 8AM Sunday
- Picnic and activities at Camp Mary Orton; Informational Meeting for parents
- So that enough food is ordered, potential Outbound Students must RSVP to attend [drakelundstrom@gmail.com](mailto:drakelundstrom@gmail.com)

Program details can be found at [6690exchange.com](http://6690exchange.com)

## Let's Create Some Buzz

### SEPTEMBER is BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY Month

#### PI To-Dos for September:

September holidays & remembrances you may want to highlight on social media & website

- September 3 – National Food Bank Day: recognize your club's contributions & partnerships
- September 6 – Labor Day
- September 8 – National Literacy Day: recognize your club's contributions & partnerships
- September 21 – International Day of Peace: highlight your club's Peace Building committee & projects
- Find many more here <https://www.thespruce.com/holidays-in-september-4157726>

#### EVERY MONTH

- Share photos from club meeting on social media at least once each week. Tag the speaker.
- Highlight one member's story with photo on social media.
- Highlight one club committee or service project on social media.

**Suggested hashtags:** #Rotary #RotaryPower #RotaryHappy #YourClub'sName #Imagine  
#Imagine Rotary #YourServiceProject #District6690

**Graphics & Additional Information:** <https://rotary6690.org/our-clubs/public-image/>



## ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES

MONTH	DESIGNATION
JULY	No Special Designation
AUGUST	Membership & New Club Development
SEPTEMBER	 Basic Education and Literacy
OCTOBER	 Community Economic Development
NOVEMBER	Rotary Foundation
DECEMBER	 Disease Prevention and Treatment
JANUARY	Vocational Service
FEBRUARY	 Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention
MARCH	 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
APRIL	 Maternal and Child Health
MAY	Youth Service
JUNE	Rotary Fellowships

Merry White Designs

Rotary



## Events

### September

- 2nd - [ROTARY FISH FRY](#)
- 8th - [Official DG visit - Chillicothe First Cap](#)
- 8th - [Official DG visit - Pike County](#)
- 10th - [Peace and Literacy Symposium](#)
- 13th - [Official DG visit - Barnesville](#)
- 14th - [All Ohio President Elect Virtual Training](#)
- 16th - [Rotary Club of New Albany - 8th Annual Golf Outing](#)
- 16th - [Columbus Rotary Fall Classic](#)
- 19th - [Membership Chat: Improving Engagement & Retention](#)
- 23rd - [New Albany - Oktoberfest](#)
- 23rd - [September 4th Friday](#)

24th - [District Fall RO-Talks Event](#)  
 24th - [New Albany - Oktoberfest](#)  
 26th - [Official DG Visit - Chillicothe](#)

## October

3rd - [Official DG Club Visit - Logan](#)  
 4th - [Official DG visit - Coshocton](#)  
 5th - [Zanesville & Zanesville Daybreak Rotary Clubs Official DG Visit](#)  
 7th - [Multi Club DG visit](#)  
 10th - [Official DG Visit - Athens Rotary Club](#)  
 11th - [Official DG Club visit - Reynoldsburg Pickerington](#)  
 12th - [Dublin-Worthington Rotary Meetup and Bring a Can Good](#)  
 12th - [President Elect Virtual Training](#)  
 15th - [Grow Local Economies Peace Symposium](#)  
 19th - [Pumpkin Ice Cream and Pie](#)  
 23rd - [Clintonville - Plates for a Purpose, menu tasting](#)  
 28th - [October 4th Friday](#)

# District Leadership Team



Price D. Finley  
District Governor  
Club: Upper Arlington  
Contact



David A. Uhl  
DG-Elect  
Club: Lancaster  
Contact



Gary D. Baker  
DG-Nominee and AG  
Coordinator  
Club: Newark  
Contact



Craig G. Maxey  
Vice-Governor  
Club: Reynoldsburg-Pickerington  
Contact



Maryjane Shackelford  
IPDG  
Club: Zanesville Daybreak  
Contact



Frances M. Veverka  
District Executive  
Secretary  
Club: Delaware  
Contact



John L. Vogelpohl  
District Treasurer  
Club: Hilliard  
Contact



Jenny Rebekah Stotts  
District Membership Chair  
Club: Athens Sunrise  
Contact



Lawrence C. Jenkins  
District Rotary Foundation  
Chair  
Club: Westerville Sunrise  
Contact



Rosaria Mauro  
District Youth Service  
Chair  
Club: Dublin-Worthington  
Contact



Dave Ungar  
District Public Image Chair  
Club: Clintonville  
(Columbus)  
Contact



Sheila Mark  
District Training Chair  
Club: Athens  
Contact



Thomas R. Carlisi  
Peace Committee Chair  
Club: Columbus  
Contact



Trina Rataiczak  
DEI Committee Chair  
Club: Marietta  
Contact



Edward F. Clark III  
Asst Gov (Area 1)  
Club: Upper Arlington  
Contact



T. David Dewey  
Asst Gov (Area 2)  
Club: Upper Arlington  
Contact



Diane Jean Conley  
Asst Gov (Area 3)  
Club: Westerville Sunrise  
Contact



Bryan D. Lane  
Asst Gov (Area 5)  
Club: Olentangy  
Contact



James D. Rogers  
Asst Gov (Area 6)  
Club: Logan  
Contact



Michelle R Davis  
Asst Gov (Area 7)  
Club: New Albany  
Contact





Timothy S. Shear  
Asst Gov (Area 8)  
Club: Dublin-Worthington  
Contact



Gwen H. Wolford  
Asst Gov (Area 9)  
Club: Circleville Sunrise  
Contact



Thomas Downard  
Asst Gov (Area 10)  
Club: Wellston  
Contact



Edward M. Mowrer  
Asst Gov (Area 11)  
Club: St. Clairsville  
Contact



Joanne Sexton  
Asst Gov (Area 12)  
Club: Cambridge  
Contact



Mark Edwin Bisang  
Asst Gov (Area 13)  
Club: Athens Sunrise  
Contact



Wendy Powell Gorrell  
Asst Gov (Area 14)  
Club: Malta-McConnelsville  
Contact



Gary A. Moll  
Asst Gov (Area 15)  
Club: Zanesville Daybreak  
Contact



Stephanie Renee Freas  
Asst Gov (Area 20)  
Club: Zanesville Daybreak  
Contact



Terry Edward Rataiczak  
TRF Annual Fund Chair  
Club: Marietta  
Contact



Melinda K. Thompson  
TRF PolioPlus Chair  
Club: St. Clairsville  
Contact



Michael R. Brown  
DCO-District Comm. Officer  
Club: Olentangy  
Contact

## Newsletter Contributions

Tell the rest of the district what your club or committee is up to! If you would like to submit a story to the newsletter, please add it [HERE](#) by the 20th of the month. *(Newsletter publication is the first of each month.)*

Find previous newsletters here: <https://rotary6690.org/our-district/newsletter/>

## Social Media

Does your club use hashtags when posting on social media? Using **#RD6690** on your posts will enable the district to search and repost/retweet your messages. Let us help you reach a larger audience!

Follow District 6690:



Central and Southeast Ohio

Yours in Rotary  
Rotary District 6690 Public Image