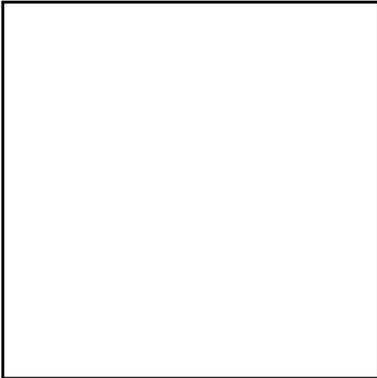


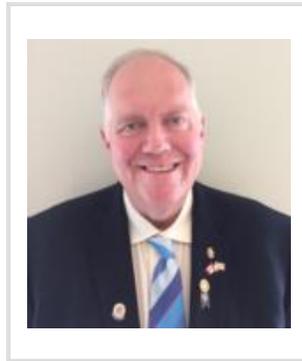


# Rotary District 6800 Newsletter

<http://www.district6800rotary.org>



## District Governor's Message



### Rotary Theme 2018/19 "Be the Inspiration" January 2019

Rotarians:

Do you feel it? There is a renewed energy in the air after we have all recharged during the holidays with family and friends. We have some great events in the coming months that you really need to take advantage of to grow your engagement in Rotary.

January began with a great leadership development event with RLI on **January 19th** (pictures below).

February has two marquis events:

- **February 8/9** in Grenada – District 6800 Membership Seminar and Mid-Year meeting. Look for the flyer in this newsletter and update emails from Membership Chair Robin Dambrino.
- **February 22-24** The RYLA weekend at Whispering Woods where we welcome over 100 high school juniors from across the District to learn how to be leaders as they face completing their high school careers.

**March 14-16** we send our President Elects and President Nominees to Natchez to learn and network as they prepare to lead their Clubs. Great speakers, good food and fellowship await these leaders on the banks of the Mississippi.

**April 12/13** we celebrate at the District 6800 Conference at the Guesthouse at Graceland in Memphis. This weekend will feature some unique entertainment, great food, opportunities to learn and network and a special spouses' day in Memphis. There will be the annual business meeting where each Club will have the opportunity to vote for future District leaders. You don't want to miss it!!

Can you feel it? Mark your calendars now and let's have some fun as we enjoy the second half of this great Rotary year.

Be the Inspiration!

Gray

### Inside This Issue

[District Governor's Message](#)

[Membership Conference](#)

[RYLA](#)

[The RI Foundation](#)

[Gift of Life](#)

[RLI - Rotary Leadership Institute](#)

[RI Convention - Hamburg,](#)

[Germany](#)

[Whitehaven](#)

[Tupelo](#)

[Northeast and Northwest Shelby](#)

[Memphis](#)

[Collierville](#)

[Cleveland](#)

### Plan Ahead

**Membership Conference**

February 8-9th

Hampton Inn & Suites

Grenada

**RYLA**

February 22-24th

Whispering Woods Conference Ctr

Olive Branch

**Community Service Heros Gala**

February 26th

Bartlett Performing Arts Centre

Bartlett

**PETS**

March 14-16th

Natchez, MS

**Gift of Life Crawfish Boil**

March 29th

Agricenter

Memphis

**District Conference**

April 12-13th

## Membership Conference



**FEBRUARY 8-9, 2019**  
DISTRICT 6800  
MEMBERSHIP  
CONFERENCE 2019

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Grenada, MS

On February 8, 2019, the Social at Molly's Place will offer a great opportunity to mingle with other Rotary Club Presidents, Presidents-Elect, and leaders from clubs across North Mississippi and the Greater Memphis area.

#### Where:

**Hampton Inn and Suites**  
1545 Jameson Drive  
Grenada, MS 38901

#### When:

**February 8, 2019**  
Friday Night Social at  
Molly's Place

**February 9, 2019**  
2019 Membership  
Conference

**At the Hampton Inn**  
From 9:00 A.M. - 3:00  
P.M.

The Guest House at Graceland  
Memphis

### Tunica Golf Tournament

April 18th

Tunica National

Tunica

### Cafe du Memphis for the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality

May 4th

Tiger Lane

Memphis

### RI Convention

June 1-5th

Hamburg, Germany

On February 9, 2019, the Membership Conference will begin at 9:00 A.M. and adjourn at 3:00 P.M. The conference will concentrate on effective growth efforts. There will be breakout sessions where we will discuss what has and has not worked for successful clubs and each group will prepare a "membership improvement action plan" during the breakout session that you will be able to take back to your club to aid in its growth.

**Hotel Reservations and Rates**  
**Hampton Inn -**  
Book by 1/18/19 for the group rate of \$104/114 per night  
After 1/18/19 - \$126/136  
Per night  
**Lofts on the Square -**  
\$129 per night  
RSVP by  
January 31, 2019 to:  
[rdambrown@gorekipatrick.com](mailto:rdambrown@gorekipatrick.com)

---

## RYLA



It's almost time! RYLA will be held February 22-24, 2019 at Whispering Woods in Olive Branch. One of our district's most successful projects, RYLA brings together 100 high school juniors for this annual leadership conference. February 1st is the early bird deadline for delegates at \$375. After that date, the cost increases to \$400 per delegate. Deadline to submit the applications is February 11, 2019. [Click here for a copy of the packet of information.](#)

---

## The RI Foundation

Dear Rotarians:

I would like to request all of you to send in your contributions to the Rotary Foundation as soon as possible. The following information by Rotary Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee explains how your contributions are used and what we have achieved so far:

*I think we can say for certain that without Rotary's historic PolioPlus program, the world would not be on the verge of eradicating polio.*

*Although public health officials and governments would have carried out routine vaccination efforts, it was Rotary's leadership and support that provided the impetus to move beyond containment of the virus to global eradication.*

*Without the Foundation, many more people would have remained illiterate and many others would not have the vocational skills needed to earn a living and provide for their families.*

*And then there is our quest for peace. In 2002, the first peace fellows started class at the Rotary Peace Centers. Today, hundreds of our graduates are using their skills to prevent and mediate conflict and help those whose lives have been devastated by war.*

*And let's consider the other diseases our Foundation grant projects have prevented and treated by providing access to health care, clean water, and adequate sanitation. Malaria, cholera, HIV/AIDS, Guinea worm – the list goes on and on. How many thousands of people have avoided suffering and even death because Rotarians carried out projects?*

*In villages around the world, you see hundreds of signs identifying Rotary Foundation projects. They stand beside water wells and are affixed to clinics and schools. When I see one of these signs, I feel proud to be a Rotarian and I think, "My contributions helped make this happen."*

*Let's never forget that behind every one of these signs is a story of the people whose lives have been touched and perhaps even saved. It is their stories that demonstrate conclusively how much better the world is because The Rotary Foundation exists.*

*There is still a lot to do and it is extremely important that we continue to contribute.*

Please mail your check today:

The Rotary Foundation  
14280 Collections Center Drive  
Chicago, IL 60693

Call me if you have any questions - [\(901\) 210-6039](tel:9012106039)

Thanks,  
Vijay Surpuriya  
District Foundation Grant Chair

---

## Gift of Life

Updates on Child #91 - Dina from Honduras. Also, you don't want to miss the Gift of Life Crawfish Boil - get your tickets here: [www.saveaheart.givesmart.com](http://www.saveaheart.givesmart.com)



Dina and her mother will return to Memphis for a follow-up surgery at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital within the next few weeks! Gift of Life Mid-South will continue to share opportunities to bring Dina and her mother a meal and to spend time with them during their stay. Thank you to the East Memphis Rotary Club for hosting this family!

THANK YOU  
to our title sponsor:

**CHUCK HUTTON  
CHEVROLET**

---

## RLI - Rotary Leadership Institute

A great crowd participated in RLI on January 19th! See the pictures below -- in the second photograph, congratulations to those Rotarians completing Part III, the final segment of RLI.



## RI Convention - Hamburg, Germany



The Rotary International Convention will be in Hamburg, Germany on June 1-5, 2019. If you are planning to attend, we encourage you to register early. The price is \$395 until December 15th when it increases to \$495. If you wait until April 2019, the cost increases to \$595. Come join your other Rotarian friends in Germany!

---

## Whitehaven

Barely a few months old, and the Whitehaven Club is already making its mark in the surrounding community. They recently hosted an event as part of their Enlightenment Series:



## Tupelo

The Rotary Club of Tupelo kicked off 2019 with a visit from Miss Mississippi Asya Branch. Branch shared about her platform and other initiatives she takes part in to benefit children. Pictured, from left, President Len Blanton, Miss Mississippi Asya Branch, and Vice President Ron Ashby.



Rotary Club of Tupelo is also gearing up for their annual Rotary on the Radio on February 26<sup>th</sup> on Miss 98FM. The all-day fundraiser features Rotarians reading sponsor ads from businesses and organizations within the Northeast Mississippi area.



---

## Northeast and Northwest Shelby

### Gala Set for February 2019

The North East and North West Shelby County Clubs joint venture of the Mid-south Community Service Heroes Gala is set again for Tuesday evening, February 26, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the Bartlett Performing Arts & Conference Center (3663 Appling Road, Bartlett, TN 38133). This year's theme is "Hearts for Our Community Heroes and Heroines" and honors those who have gone above the call of duty to serve our communities to ensure they are safe, beautiful, and thriving.

We welcome input from other clubs regarding nomination of candidates to receive awards in one of the ten service areas. Also, we would appreciate in sponsorships you may consider. Both forms can be found here: [sponsorship](#) and [nomination](#)

Here's how you can help: help us get the word out through free publicity, make a donation (payable to the Bartlett Rotary Foundation – 501c3), nominate a hero or heroine, purchase/sell tickets, or purchase an ad in the program. Tickets for the even are only \$10 and include the ceremony and reception.

To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact Lonnie Gauldin (901-216-4185; [lonniegcrx@gmail.com](mailto:lonniegcrx@gmail.com)) or Paul Criss (901-896-3456 or 901-626-8462; [pcriss@belhaven.edu](mailto:pcriss@belhaven.edu)).

Here are some photos from last year's event!





Winter is gearing up to be a busy time at the Memphis club.

We have had some great speakers recently, but January marked a visit from two of note: Bill Johnson, outgoing president of the Tennessee Valley Authority, gave his "farewell" address to our club, and Hedy Weinberg, executive director of the Tennessee ACLU, spoke just this week.

We are eager to participate in the district events like RYLA with a number of our club members serving in various capacities on the committee, including the district chair, Cary Vaughn. Make your plans now to join us at the district conference – we will be the folks hosting the hospitality room for DG Gray Carter. We hope to see you there and share a glass of wine or two.

Our leaders for the upcoming Rotary year are busy learning the ropes. John Elkington (president elect) and Harry Montgomery (president elect nominee) will be headed to the Large Club Conference in California in a couple of weeks where they will spend a few days networking and learning from their colleagues from around 60 other clubs in the US and Canada. They are also looking forward to seeing all of their District 6800 counterparts at PETS in Natchez in March.

We have several projects coming up where we would love to see our fellow Rotarians. More details to come, but join us if you can for all things food-related: serving dinner to the patients and families staying at Tri Delta Place at St. Jude, volunteering at the Calvary Waffle Shop during Lent, the best New Orleans food around at Café du Memphis for the Dorothy Day House on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Tiger Lane, and maybe even another surprise cooking event sometime soon.

---

---

## Collierville

### Collierville Rotary Raised \$19,419 for Salvation Army.

Collierville Rotary raised over \$19K for Salvation Army between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This far exceeded the \$10k raised in 2017 by Collierville Rotary. This made the Collierville Rotary #2 in fund raising in the Memphis area for the Salvation Army. Thanks to all the Rotarians and their families for helping ring the bell and a special thanks to the citizens of Collierville area who donated to the red kettle.

### Three Rotarians Win Chamber Awards.

Three Collierville Rotarians won awards at the annual Collierville Chamber of Commerce Awards Event. Rotarian Herbie Krisle with Page Robbins won the 2018 Non Profit of the Year, Kyle Grasso won 2018 Spirit of Collierville Award, and Larry Boyd was awarded the 2018 Person of the Year Award. Congratulations to three outstanding Collierville Rotarians.

---



---

## Cleveland

Rotarian Parveen Chawla speaks on The International Association for Human Values (IAHV) Prison SMART Program

Rotarian Parveen Chawla spoke to the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Mississippi on The International Association for Human Values' (IAHV) Prison SMART Program she has introduced into the Bolivar County Correctional Facility. Welcoming Parveen (center) to the Club were Rotarian Sean Wessel (left), guests Dolly Marascalco from Grenada and Kimberly Nabors from Cleveland, Rotarian Gwen Thomas, and Ora Starks, Warden of the Bolivar County Correctional Facility. Supporting genuine rehabilitation, Prison SMART is believed to reduce recidivism rates.

The IAHV Prison SMART is an internationally renowned rehabilitation program that effectively transforms the mindsets, attitudes and behavior of offenders, thus aiming to break the cycle of violence in our societies at the root, and reducing re-offending. It also offers crucial stress management and trauma relief for correctional staff and victims of crime. Since its inception in 1992, over 700,000 persons in 60 countries have undergone the IAHV Prison Program. In the United States alone over 20,000 inmates, correctional officers and law enforcement staff have experienced the program. The IAHV Prison Program teaches all levels of inmates and corrections staff evidence-based techniques that reduces stress and allows the participants to manage their emotions effectively. Prison SMART aims to reduce offender recidivism and end the repeating cycle of violence and abuse that dominates many areas of our society. Prison SMART provides a basis for self-management, increases self-confidence, strengthens human values and reduces reliance on addictive substances. The cornerstone of the program is advanced breathing techniques, including Sudarshan Kriya (SKY), which removes stress from the physiology and has been shown to have numerous physical and mental health benefits. Parveen's success at the Bolivar County Correctional Facility has resulted in her being invited to introduce the program at Parchman, the state of Mississippi's penitentiary.



For more information visit <http://www.prisonprogram.org/about-us/> To see more photos of the Cleveland Rotary Club visit <https://www.facebook.com/clevelandrotaryclub/>

---