



Rotary Review

The Official Newsletter of District 6880

APRIL 2024

APRIL IS
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The RI Monthly theme for April 2024 is **Protecting the Environment**. The newest of R.I.'s 7 Areas of Focus, enabled by the actions of (2019-2020) Past RI President Mark Maloney (Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama), has been supported by \$18.4M in Global Grant funding over the past five years. Protecting our environment has become over-politicized, not only in the U.S. but throughout the world. That will serve no good purpose to our children and grandchildren in the long term.

Your District 6880 is participating in four Global Grants associated with Protecting the Environment—creating hope for “faces we will never see” but who will always remember Rotary’s role, your role, in improving their life circumstances and those of generations to follow.

- Ancash region, Peru: Ancient dam rehabilitation to increase water supply supporting sustainable agriculture for 93 farming families in water-poor communities.
- Leslie County, Kentucky: Installing approved septic systems and connection to the public water system to improve water quality and access to clean water for 35 households.
- Antalya, Turkey: Installing solar panels on the rooftop of a 1700-student school.
- Chihuahua, Mexico: Providing potable, accessible water in two villages, serving 54 indigenous Tarahumara families.

Please take a moment to reflect on various ways we can make a difference and Create Hope locally regarding this vital Area of Focus. Something here touches every one of our communities. Clubs can do it alone or partner with civic organizations, educational, governmental, or other entities.

- Protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine, and freshwater resources.
- Enhancing the capacity of communities to support natural resource management and conservation.
- Supporting sustainable agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture practices
- Addressing the cause of climate change by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.
- Strengthening ecosystems and communities affected by climate change.
- Supporting education initiatives that promote behavior that protects the environment.
- Advocating for sustainable consumption to build an economy that uses resources more efficiently.
- Addressing environmental justice issues and public health concerns.

Continued on next page

Rotary International District 6880

2023-2024

DATES TO REMEMBER

April-June	AG's make fourth quarter club visits	May 30	Deadline to update membership for July SAR
April 19	Final Report for District Grants due from club to District 6880	June 15	Deadline to submit contributions to The Rotary Foundation for credit in the current year.
May 2-5	District Conference Huntsville	June 30	All activities completed in MyRotary for Rotary Citations for Clubs
May 12	Deadline to submit District Grant Applications		
May 1-31	AG's complete Memorandum of Official Visit and send to DG		
May 25-29	Rotary International Convention, Singapore		

DG Earl's letter continued...

Districts 6880 and D6860 will hold our annual **Multidistrict Conference—*Rotary in the Rocket City***, in Huntsville, May 3-5. Attendees can participate in literacy and mental wellness programs and learn about ongoing club and global grant service projects across Alabama, membership development, and other topics important to current and incoming club and district leaders. And those reasons will be matched by opportunities for fun and fellowship that will start Friday night and continue until Sunday noon. Register today and make a hotel reservation to ensure you can get the conference rate at the Embassy Suites. <https://www.district6880.org/>
See you there!

Yours in Rotary
DG Earl

Around the District



DGE Howard Eddy with Beth Stubbs, Rotary International Zone 30/31 Director. The two were toasting a great President Elect Seminar in Chattanooga over Chattanooga Whiskey proof barrels. Cheers to the PE Class of 2024-2025



District 6880 President Elect Class of 2024-2025

Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club's Jimmy Hill Passes Away

Jimmy passed away after losing his courageous battle with heart failure. His daughters, Lindsay Hill and Laura Hill Curtis, and their mom, Linda Reynolds Hill were with him.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Hill. In addition to his daughters, he is survived by his father, Charles Hill, brothers Randy Hill (Karen), Rick Hill (Amanda), and Mack Hill (Lisa), son-in-law JB Curtis, precious grandson, Ben, nieces and nephews, his pet cat Miss Mia, and friends and family.

Jimmy was a longtime resident of Montgomery, graduating from Hooper Academy and earning a BSBA from Auburn University Montgomery. In 2015 Jimmy was named Outstanding Alumni at the College of Business for AUM. While at AUM Jimmy was an active brother in Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

It's ironic that Jimmy died of a weak heart when he had such a loving, giving, and serving heart. He spent the last 15 years of his professional life as President/CEO of the River Region United Way and as the State Director of C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocate). Jimmy also gave much of his time and support to the community as a member of the Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club. He was recognized as a Level One Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation. Jimmy led the efforts for the construction and the implementation of the Rotary Dog Park located in Downtown Montgomery during his tenure as president of the club. Jimmy caught the bug for hiking and no matter the weather, was always ready to lace up his hiking boots, strap on his backpack and hit the trails. With the combination of his love for hiking and photography, Jimmy was able to record the beauty of those hikes and share them with his posts and knack of storytelling. In the summer of 2023, Jimmy shared with the Sunrise Rotary Club the vision AUM had for restoring the hiking trail on campus. The club voted this as one of the service projects for the year. Jimmy was able to help with the building of the trailhead and clearing off some of the trail. This made the trailhead the perfect place for his memorial service.

Jimmy lived his life like he was on a hike - it's not a race, but a saunter; one step at a time; always stop and take a picture; it's ok to take breaks and eat a snack (except pickles!); share the adventure with friends; the trail may seem long but it's really not; hike with poles so you keep your balance; yes, the mountains are high, but you are strong and can make it; start early and don't miss the sunrise; if you run out of water a friend will share theirs; if you fall your friends will help you up, while they are laughing; the best part of the hike is at the end when you can look back on what you accomplished and watch the sunset.



Demopolis Rotarians learned a road-building project that usually would take 20 years to complete will be finished in only five.

Kevin White, regional vice president of Birmingham-based Brasfield and Gorrie, speaking to the club March

6, said the widening of the U.S. Hwy. 43/69 corridor from Thomasville to Moundville will be finished in record time because of a progressive design-build model.

The construction firm is contracted to build the entire corridor. Working with engineers and designers from ALDOT, it doesn't have to complete one section of the project before starting work on another, which will enable the highway to be completed in a quarter of the usual time.

"It is the first time ALDOT has used this delivery model," White said. It enables the project to be built in the most cost-efficient manner possible. Actual construction to make the section four lanes instead of two, separated by a 60-foot median, is expected to begin later this year and be completed by the middle of 2029. White said one of the engineers on the project estimated that enough earth will be moved during construction to fill Bryan-Denny stadium eight times.

In another infrastructure project, club members learned that fiber optic, high-speed internet is coming to Demopolis and Marengo County. **George Henry**, CEO of Yellowhammer Networks, on Wednesday, March 13, said that his firm will oversee the contractors who will install the network. Already he has set up an office in Demopolis to serve as headquarters for the local section of the project, even though he doesn't expect actual work to start for another "year-and-a-half-ish." Once begun, the Demopolis installation will take between nine and 12 months, depending on the condition of the utility poles the company will use and whether cable must be buried. Construction is going on throughout west central Alabama. "I have 3 ½ years to get all of that done," Henry said.



"There are probably about 35 or 40 things that people don't know we have anything to do with," said **Walton Roberts**, director of the Demopolis Parks and Recreation Department, at the March 27 meeting.

The events and activities sponsored by the department not only benefit the residents of the city but bring in welcomed tax revenue from visitors. Growing in popularity are the fishing tournaments scheduled on more than half the weekends during the year.





On Monday, April 1st, we welcomed new rotary member Christian Ware. Christian is an Executive Vice President at ServisFirst Bank. President Taylor Williams is his sponsor. We are excited to have you join Christian and look forward to your fellowship & service in the club!

Montgomery Rotary



Welcome new rotary member Brian McDowall. Brian is a Real Estate Agent at Bealocks Properties, LLC. Jonathan Shoffner is his sponsor.

Our Rotary guest speaker on April 1 was U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Mike Brown. He is a Montgomery native who graduated from Lee High School. He has degrees from Tulane and Georgetown.



RADM Brown returned to Montgomery in preparation for the Beyond the Horizon Air Show, featuring the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels. He says there are several misconceptions about the Navy, pointing out that aircraft carriers belong to the Navy, not the U.S. Air Force, and that Tom Cruise was a Navy aviator in the film "Top Gun."

RADM Brown reminded us that the U.S. is a maritime nation, with the seas providing the lifeblood of our economy. He says 26% of U.S. jobs are tied to global trade exports. Alabama's annual exports total \$27 billion, including agricultural goods, timber, paper, vehicles and components for ships and aircraft. The Navy ensures that Alabama's exports get out of port. In wartime, ships are a critical part of homeland defense. An aircraft carrier represents five acres of

U.S. territory at sea, able to launch necessary attacks without permission from other nations. RADM Brown says China presents a threat to the world's oceans. He says China is challenging rules set 80 years ago in an attempt for Beijing to take control away from the U.S. to establish military dominance for the world's autocrats and tyrants.

He says the U.S. will defend global checkpoints, building relationships through goodwill. Unmanned U.S. warships are capable of launching missiles, but he says China is getting better at its own long-range weapons.

Read Across America

We had several Rotarians participate in Read Across America week.



Jessica Hoagland visited Dannelly Elementary.

Karlyn Edmonds visited Dannelly Elementary.



Robert Prater visited Dannelly Elementary.



Andrea McCain visited Pike Road.





Jalyn Danielle Johnson, representing Murphy High School, received the Youth Merit Award. After



Rotarian William Bryant introduced program speaker Dr. Joe'l Lewis Billingsley from the University of South Alabama who spoke about Community Engagement.

Mobile Rotary

graduating, Jalyn plans to enroll at the University of Alabama.

Dr. Lauren Lambrecht with Azalea City Physicians for Women was our speaker.



Student of the week, Brendan Russell, from McGill Toolen Catholic High School



New members



Chris Andrews Frankie Little



Natalie Armour from Mobile Christian School received the clubs Youth Merit Award.



Sydnee Cantley, Miss Tuscaloosa, was our program speaker.



Kayleigh Touchstone, representing Mary G. Montgomery High School, received the Youth Merit Award. After graduating Kayleigh plans to enroll at the University of South Alabama and major in Engineering.

Central Baldwin Sunset Rotary



PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) was another big success! Pictured below are all Baldwin County Rotarians. Photo of Mike



Several Club members attended the 3rd Annual Joe Driver memorial Crawdown fundraiser.

Sledge, assistant district governor teaching while Suzy Sledge is fulfilling duties as scribe. Also class photo of Penny Hughey teaching. Penny is current president of Gulf Shores/Orange Beach club. Penny and Mike, thank you for the outstanding job teaching classes this weekend!



Robertsdale High Schools new Head Coach Cris Bell was the guest speaker tonight. Looking forward to some Robertsdale Foot ball this fall!



Adam and Erin Salyers with Farm Fresh Meats in Robertsdale were guest speakers this week. They shared the history of Farm Fresh opening in 1976 and today is a 3rd Generation Baldwin County Business. Their first smoked sausage created was named Old Timer, they still make it today and served last night to our members!

Mobile Sunrise Rotary



March started well for **ROTARY SUNRISE** when **President Dr. Robert McGinley (L)** welcomed new member, **Dr. Bill Urquhart.**

Andy Wynne, Director of the Child Advocacy Center of Mobile (CAC) introduced this great non-profit organization that is the Mobile community response to the problem of child sexual abuse.

A wide range of services offered ‘under one roof’ to sexually abused children and their non-offending family members helps them begin the healing process and prepare for the criminal justice proceedings. In the comfortable environment of the Center, twenty-eight professionals from several different agencies (including Mobile County Sheriff’s Department, Mobile Police Department, Prichard Police Department, Mobile Department of Human Resources, Mobile County District Attorney’s Office, Lifelines Family Counseling Center, University of South Alabama Children’s Medical Center) work together as a team to provide healing, counseling, support, and prosecution services.

There are many donors that support CAC and Andy said: “Words are not adequate to thank them for all they do to help care for the young victims of severe abuse CAC cares for. Donors’ kindness is truly life changing, not only for their families, future generations, and even those who provide the care. Caring for children who have experienced the unimaginable if life changing. Innocence is truly lost. How relationships are viewed is fundamentally changed forever. Donors provide the hope these children long for and they are evidence of all that is good in the world.”



The Mobile Museum of Art (MMofA) includes a permanent collection of more than 6,400 works of fine and decorative arts from America, Asia, and Europe. This collection spans periods from classical antiquity to the present day. MMofA is supported by a unique public/private partnership of city and community support. Its facility is owned by the city of Mobile, and the art collection is privately owned.

Founded in 1964, MMofA has grown from a modest initiative of The Board of Commissioners of the City of Mobile, and two private arts entities, the Allied Arts Council, and the Mobile Arts Association, to the only accredited art museum in southern Alabama.

Jon Carfagno took the reins as the new Executive Director of the Mobile Museum of Art, on February 14, 2023, after a nationwide search. Jon came with both outstanding credentials and extensive experience with major art institutions. Over the last 10 months, many heard him say, “The future is bright for Mobile Museum of Art!”

Under his leadership MMofA is experiencing growth in every phase of its operations - in daily admissions, memberships, educational programming, exhibitions, new acquisitions, and financial support. The growth in financial support in particular has enabled the Museum to expand its staff to broaden its offerings, as well as present a series of exhibitions demonstrating the art and culture of Mobile through the decades. But even more exciting is the enabling of the Museum to commit to some truly spectacular blockbuster exhibitions in the coming months.

As the Museum approaches the 60th anniversary of the founding of MMofA, Jon looks forward to October 2024 for a gala celebration as never seen before by the Museum, when it brings together the artists who were featured in the Museum of Modern Art’s ‘The Responsive Eye’ exhibition, which took New York City by storm at the time of MMofA’s founding. Indeed, exciting times lay ahead for MMofA and Jon hopes that many Mobilians and others will be part of it!



Mobile Sunrise Rotary Continued



Rotarian Dr. Allen Oaks introduced Gina Gregory, who talked about multiple Mobile City activities. Councilwoman Gina Gregory was first elected to the Mobile City Council representing District 7 on the city's northwest side in 2005. Since then, she has been re-elected four times without opposition. As President of the Council, she was the first woman ever to be elected as an officer in Mobile City Council history by her colleagues.

Though this is Gina's first political office, she was not a newcomer to politics or to government work. Gina served the citizens of Mobile as the City's Public Relations Director and Spokesperson under former Mayor Mike Dow for three years. During that time, Gina was an integral part of Dow's executive staff, overseeing the Mayor's communications, the City's Special

Events Department, and sister cities' activities. After leaving her post in Mayor Dow's administration, Gina worked for eight years with MDi Media Group as the company's Public Relations Director before serving as the Community Affairs Leader with Hargrove Engineers + Constructors.

Gina has a broad background in media and government including reporting and anchoring the news at Mobile's WKRG-TV, WSFA-TV in Montgomery, AL, WCJB-TV in Gainesville, FL, and WJXT-TV in Jacksonville, FL. Gina's experience in government extends to the state level. She served as the Associate Director for the Alabama Petroleum Council in Montgomery, as a Public Affairs Representative and Lobbyist. As the Associate Director, Gina represented companies doing business in the state, she was a member of the Business Council of Alabama and participated in regional and national legislative conferences.

Gina grew up in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida where she attended Choctawhatchee High School, and has just been named to the school's Hall of Fame. Gina is a proud University of Florida Gator with a degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Political Science.



Wallace Rotaract

Wallace Rotaract organized and sponsored a community Easter Egg Hunt this past Saturday, March 23rd. Seventy-five kids came to participate in the egg hunt, a cake walk, games, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. We had a great time stuffing and hiding over 1000 eggs!



Point Clear Rotary



Clay Swanzy, right, was Press Secretary to former Cong. Jack Edwards in Washington when Jo Bonner, left, now the President of the University of South Alabama, was an intern his senior year at the University of Alabama in 1980. They both spent several years in Washington as Chiefs of Staff. Bonner to former Cong. Sonny Callahan and Swanzy to both former Congressmen Bill Dickinson and Terry Everett. Bonner later served as a Member of Congress. Bonner spoke recently to the Point Clear Rotary Club of which Swanzy is a member.

JO BONNER, President of the University of South Alabama and a former Member of Congress, center, spoke recently to the Point Clear Rotary Club. South Alabama has increased enrollment and continues to grow under his leadership. He was hosted by Rotarians Dr. Prentiss Smith, left, and Ben Rowe. Bonne's sister, Judy, a past President of the University of Alabama, was in attendance.





On March 21, members of the Dothan Tuesday Rotary Club met with members of the Troy University Dothan Rotaract Club.

Rotarians provided insight and advice for the members of the Rotaract Club, which the Dothan Tuesday Rotary Club sponsors. Members of the Rotaract Club are planning a spring formal to generate revenue for a scholarship fund, as well as several other campus engagement activities and community service projects.

Dothan Tuesday Rotary



Troy Rotary

Troy Rotary Club passed out dictionaries to third graders at Dothan Elementary School.



Montgomery Capital Rotary



On April 4th, our club hosted Command Master Chief Keith Wilkerson to speak to the members about the United States Navy. Chief Wilkerson was in Montgomery before the beginning of the open house at Maxwell Air Force Base on April 6-7. The premier event was a presentation by the Blue Angels. The Chief is a native of Birmingham and has had many assignments during his 25 years with the Navy. The presentation covered an overview of the roles and missions of the Navy, including comments on the technology the Navy employs to keep the sea lanes open. Pictured with Wilkerson is club president, Chappell Chancey.



The Selma Rotary Club on Tuesday inducted 35 members of a newly reestablished Interact Club of teen members at Morgan Academy.

It has been about 10 years since the

Rotary Club of Selma has had an active Interact Club at Morgan Academy,

but the club of teens in eighth through 12th grades got restarted in 2023. And

Rotary Club of Selma is working with school superintendents to add Interact Clubs at Dallas County and Selma High schools.

“We are thrilled to welcome back our Interact Club to Selma!” said Collins

Pettaway, Rotary President. “I extend special thanks to Rotarians Cindy Fisher and Leith Wilson for their leadership and guidance throughout this journey. Our new Interactors are already making a positive impact in the community, and I’m confident they’re just getting started.”

The Morgan Interact Club got started through the leadership of seniors Anne Hayes Utsey and Lelia Kelly. The seniors approached Rotary Club President Elect Cindy Fisher about restarting the Interact Club to give students at Morgan Academy more volunteer options for their needed community service hours.

Kelly said she reached out to Rotary to restart Interact Club for more service opportunities.

“I have always been serious about getting involved any way I can, but being from a small town there aren’t a lot of opportunities,” she said. “That made me realize I have to create my own opportunities, which inspired me to do research to start a community-oriented club.”

The club restarted in October with the first service project involving the teens helping Rotary Club make Cozy Dawgs over six days at the annual Central Alabama Fair, which is an annual fundraiser for the Selma Club.

Since then, the teen leaders rang the bell to raise money for Salvation Army at Walmart in Selma and they hosted their own service project of making and giving out Christmas cards at the local nursing home. The Interact Club also helped in big numbers at the Bloch Park Cleanup on a chilly February Saturday.

In March, three Morgan Interact Club members and a Keith High student attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program at Camp ASCCA representing Selma Rotary alongside teens from 48 Rotary Clubs in south-central Alabama to focus on leadership and decision-making skills.

Selma Rotary Club plans to start Interact Clubs at Dallas County schools and Selma High to increase civic involvement among teens throughout Selma-Dallas County.

“We appreciate our partnership with Morgan Academy and have ambitious plans ahead,” Pettaway said. “Currently, we are actively discussing the expansion of Interact to Dallas County Schools, with future plans to include Selma City Schools. Our overarching goal is to ensure that our young scholars are well-equipped with the essential tools of leadership, camaraderie, and service, benefiting not only our community but also communities nationwide.”

Fisher said getting teens involved in Interact and Rotary’s “Service Above Self” actions will be a great way to boost Rotary’s rosters in the future when they enter the workforce, ideally back in Selma.





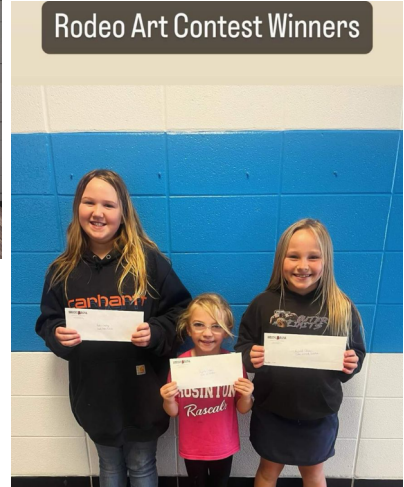
We enjoyed hearing from Melissa Rankin with She's a Pistol....she teaches firearms training to females.

Robertsdale Rotary

We obtained a grant to send several students to RYLA this year. Thanks Kenny King for getting the students to their destination!!!



We put on our 24th PCA Rodeo on March 8 & 9 and it was a huge success. We worked hard and had a lot of fun along the way. We enjoyed some assistance from managers from the surrounding Wawa Stores that will be opening in our area. We had a lot of participation in our art contest for the rodeo program with the winner getting \$100. We added a petting zoo this year, face painting and photo stop.



March 1st Club Meeting; "Beyond the Horizon Air & Space Show" at Maxwell Air Force Base Presentation conducted by Colonel (Retired) Douglas DeMaio and Lieutenant Colonel Chay Derbigny.

Montgomery Sunrise Rotary

Colonel (Retired) Doug "Cinco" DeMaio is the Chief Executive Officer of All Domain Solutions LLC. Colonel DeMaio commanded the 187th Fighter Wing at Dannelly Field from May 2021 to August 2022, leading 1400 personnel, 22 F-16 Fighting Falcons, and preparing the wing for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Lieutenant Colonel Chay Derbigny is an academic instructor and executive officer for the Commandant, Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Maxwell AFB, AL.



DeMaio



Derbigny.



March 8th Club Meeting; Alabama National Guard Colonel Mike Davenport shared the importance of the National Guard and the vital roles the men and women conduct.



March 15th Club Meeting; Commitment To Service Awards and Shrimp Boil FUNdraiser Committee Co-Chairs; John Craft & Meredith Dismukes provided updates on the upcoming May 11th FUNdraising event.

March 22nd Club Meeting; International Affairs Mark Conversino, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Air War College Mark shared information about international affairs around the world.



March 29th Club Meeting; Maxwell Air Force Base and Civil Rights. Dr. Robert Kane provided individuals experiences and work life examples on base and in the community as it pertained to civil rights and the military stationed at Maxwell AFB.



On March 25th the Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club were deeply saddened by the sudden and profound loss of our dear friend, Jimmy Hill. Though we find solace in knowing he is now with our Savior, the reality is still difficult to comprehend. We anticipated seeing Jimmy at our meeting on Friday morning, as he was always one of the first to arrive. However, it wasn't until Friday afternoon, April 5th, during his beautiful memorial service, that the harsh reality truly sank in. Club members Neil Hughes and Willie Durham shared heartfelt words, reflecting on the impact Jimmy had on all of us. Willie urged the Club to stand united with him. Wildflowers adorned the ground in front of Jimmy's hiking photo, bringing a bittersweet smile to our faces. His hiking sticks stood tall, and his boots lay on the ground, as if he had simply stepped out of them and ascended to heaven.

