



# Rotary Review

*The Official Newsletter of District 6880*

**The clock is ticking down to our “FLIP FLOPS IN THE SAND” 2025 year-end District Conference in Orange Beach.**

**CONFERENCE DATE June 19th - 22nd, 2025**

**Hampton Inn & Suites, "ON THE BEACH" Orange Beach, AL**

You can still get in on the fun! The host hotel is all but booked up but, the conference committee will work to get you there so you don't miss out. A number of Clubs and individuals will want to be there to receive District Awards too.

**The conference kick off begins with a THURSDAY EVENING VIP reception and SUNSET DOLPHIN CRUISE** aboard one of the Southern Rose vessels. **We'll**

**have light appetizers, the vessel has a full bar** and both inside and outside seating so “rain or shine” you will have a beautiful unique start to our annual conference. If you're even still hungry and not full from the appetizers



Plan your ***Thursday dinner is on your own*** at one of the many fantastic eateries in Orange Beach that run the gambit from elegant like the new “***Coastal***” about 100 yard walk from the Hampton Inn to the regional “locals” beach bars like the famous “***Flora Bama***” just a short drive east.

Unless you elect to stay over Sunday, ***Thursday night is the last meal not included in your registration package!*** So many people came away from Midyear in Fairhope thrilled by the work of our area Rotarian Cook Teams that the conference committee asked several of the clubs back for a command performance. The hotel offers full breakfast and for attendees not staying at the property we will have continental breakfast items in the ballroom. Lunches are covered as well by two host clubs but we don't want to spoil your appetites for dinner on Friday or Saturday.

***Friday Seafood dinner***, we'll have a ***Southern Seafood Shrimp Boil*** by PEG Bob Kelley's son who grew-up at his dad's famous “Tally Ho” restaurant in Selma that remains one of the best kept secret “must eat at before you die” spots in Alabama.

***Saturday Steak dinner***, Fairhope Sunset PE and District “Executive Chef” Jack Powell and his crew will again grill the steaks that everyone raved over at Midyear.

**Lodging** at the Hampton room block rate is full and summer rates are in effect but, you may still be able to get a room and Conference Chair, Memorie Martinez will diligently working with the Hampton Sales Office to find alternative sites for folks who still want to come or who will want to receive a club award. Email Memorie's office ([saafairhope@gmail.com](mailto:saafairhope@gmail.com)) and be sure to put “ROTARY CONFERENCE HOTEL HELP” in the “Re:” line. We'll try to direct you to some options in the greater Orange Beach area. In addition, Foley is just about a 20 minute drive north and generally has much cheaper rates than the beach areas.

**Registration** is still open on Eventbrite (hot link = <https://bit.ly/D6880ConfReg>) NOTE IT IS CASE SENSITIVE TYPE IT EXACTLY and there is also a link on DaCdb to the Eventbrite site. Clicking the beach photo at the bottom takes you to registration. **THE COST IS INCLUDED BUT, WE MUST HAVE YOUR REGISTRATION FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE** ON THE THURSDAY PRE-CONFERENCE SUNSET CRUISE DUE TO TICKETING AND SEATING CAPACITY ON THE VESSEL.

**SATURDAY Special Guest Luncheon Speaker followed by District Awards.** TO ACCOMMODATE INDIVIDUALS AND COUPLES WHO CAN ONLY COME ONE DAY, **SATURDAY AFTERNOON** WILL BE THE PRIMARY **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**. We Registrar Michelle Thomason will be opening a special SATURDAY ONLY Registration link starting the week of June 1. WE MUST HAVE YOU REGISTERED BUT ALL SATURDAY MEALS INCLUDING Continental Breakfast, Lunch AND THE STEAK DINNER and Casino Magic “Rat Race” night will be included, **AND FRESH LOCAL GRILLED OYSTERS!**

**Our special guest speaker will be David Wilson.** Mr. Wilson is a career leader current Executive Director of Public Safety for one of the fastest growing cities in Alabama. He is a longtime certified veteran presenter of the “John Maxwell” Leadership Development programs and speaks around the region as part of his consulting firm **“Real Deal Leader.”** He has taught time tested leadership development and personal growth techniques to thousands of government and corporate clients and will bring you new insights into motivational leadership in Rotary as well as your personal and professional life.



We are excited to have him join us as he shares some great new tips as well as reinforcing time honored truths about Leadership from the perspective of a practitioner of author John Maxwell.



**FRIDAY Special Guest Luncheon Speaker** will be Prattville attorney and active Rotarian Josh Pendergrass who will share his story of how Rotary changed his life and why he is so passionate about Rotary.

*Allotted free time to enjoy the pool, the beach or explore and even more reasons to come and enjoy the conference include*

Featured music by singer songwriter Jacob Brock



AND kick up your heels to the dancing tunes by our Midyear DJ Vicki Pearl



Here is a quick look agenda for your reference. We have designed the program where you will have the options of a Friday / Saturday night stay on Friday to enjoy most of the program or come in Thursday for a special reception and leave Sunday for the entire program:

**Proposed DRAFT agenda for Orange Beach:**

**AGENDA DETAILS AND NOTES TO ATTENDEES WILL BE CONTINUALLY UPDATED ON EVENTBRITE ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE WEEKEND OF CONFERENCE!**

**Thursday:** Early evening 5pm “Sunset & Dolphin cruise” boat trip with light appetizers followed by dinner on your own if you are still hungry

Friday: Breakfast @ Hotel or OYO

Lunch Session

Dinner Session Hospitality

Saturday: Breakfast @ Hotel or OYO

District Business Meetings Lunch Session

Dinner Session Hospitality

Sunday: Breakfast @ Hotel or OYO

Sessions & Dismissal. Lunch and Free Time at the beach!

We have an outstanding event planned - the only thing that could make it better for all of us is if YOU were there! Just be forewarned - it will be an awesome time!

So don't miss out! Let's make this conference unforgettable and celebrate the power of Rotary together! We can't wait to see you in Orange Beach.

Hotel hot link: <https://bit.ly/HamptonInnOrangeBeach> - or call hotel directly

**THERE IS NO SPECAIL REGISTRATION CODE NEEDED FOR EITHER EVENT OR HOTEL BUT  
NOTE ALL "bit.ly" LINKS ARE CASE SENSITIVE**

This event is set to be one of the most exciting and impactful gatherings of the year, bringing together Rotarians from across the District for a weekend of learning, fellowship, and inspiration. We're proud to announce some very special guest speakers joining us. This is your chance to enjoy the beach (THE HOTEL IS RIGHT ON THE BEACH!) hear from incredible speakers, share in the Rotary spirit, and leave inspired to take action in your clubs and communities. You will have the chance to share great insights into how to succeed in various projects and disciplines in Rotary, so be prepared to gain knowledge while sharing our best practices - helping make all of us better together! Also, we will have the opportunity to celebrate Rotary with live entertainment, REALLY GREAT food and awesome speakers. There will also be time built into the end of the agenda for you to take in the local highlights and sights around the area and you can arrange to come early or stay late for a mini vacation.

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**AGENDA DETAILS AND NOTES TO ATTENDEES WILL BE CONTINUALLY UPDATED  
ON EVENTBRITE ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE WEEKEND OF CONFERENCE!**

**Thursday:** Afternoon boat trip or other special event if weather permits and followed by evening VIP reception (separate registration pending for headcount and possibly added fee - we are trying to negotiate a price to make this part of the all-inclusive package)

**Friday:** Breakfast @ Hotel or OYO  
Lunch Session  
Dinner Session  
Hospitality

**Saturday:** Breakfast @ Hotel or OYO  
District Business Meetings  
Lunch Session  
Dinner Session  
Hospitality

**Sunday:** Breakfast @ Hotel or OYO  
Sessions & Dismissal. Lunch and Free Time at the beach!

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We can't wait to see you in Orange Beach!



# IMPORTANT DATES

● **APRIL** DEADLINE CLUBS TO FINALIZE GOALS. DG MUST SUBMIT REPORT by MAY 1, CLUBS MUST SUBMIT ANY FINAL CHANGES TO GOALS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CITATION

DEADLINE FOR AGs TO MAKE 4<sup>th</sup> QTR/ANNUAL VISITS AND FILE REPORT WITH DG

CLUB SECRETARIES ARE ASKED TO email names of deceased to be included in Memorial

● **APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup>** HOTEL DISCOUNT RATE CUT OFF DATE FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN OBA

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN VERY SOON, WATCH FOR NOTICES, Midyear was a sell-out

● **MAY 9<sup>th</sup>** International Steak Cook-off for Charity, IN FAIRHOPE [www.fairhopesteak.org](http://www.fairhopesteak.org)

● **MAY 11<sup>th</sup>** MOTHER'S DAY (Don't forget Mom!)

If you missed Midyear, you will really want to make the effort to attend District Conference!!!

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON, WATCH FOR NOTICES, Midyear was a sell-out ! WE ARE EXPLORING HOW TO MAKE REGISTRATION EASIER

HOTEL CUT OFF WILL BE **APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup>**, WATCH FOR MORE INFO ON HOTEL!!! Pre-Conference events start THURSDAY AFTERNOON! PLAN FOR FUN AT THE BEACH

● **MAY 25<sup>th</sup>** NATIONAL WINE DAY & (long weekend)

● **MAY 26<sup>th</sup>** MEMORIAL DAY FEDERAL HOLIDAY (Don't forget those who served!)

● **MAY 30<sup>th</sup>** LAST DAY TO UPDATE MEMBERSHIP & SAR REPORT

● **JUNE** CLUBS MUST SUBMIT FINALIZED GRANT APPLICATIONS

CLUBS MUST SUBMIT ANY YEAR-END TRF GIVING FOR CREDIT IN THIS FY

● **JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>** Incoming DG Cochran Installation in AUBURN more info to follow

● **JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>** FATHER'S DAY (Don't forget Dad!)

**Thank you to the class of 2024-25 and Best Wishes to the Class of 2025-26!!**

First half FY Dues & PETS FEES DUE AND PAYABLE

● **JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>** FEDERAL HOLIDAY

● **JUNE 21-25** Rotary International Convention in CALGARY, CAN

● **JULY 1, 2025** New Rotary International Fiscal year BEGINS!

Thank you to the class of 2024-25 and Best Wishes to the Class of 2025-26!

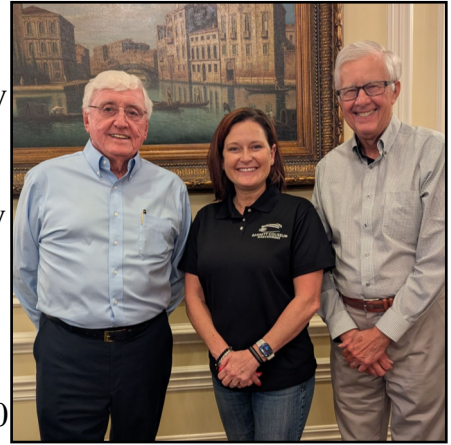
First half FY Dues & PETS FEES DUE AND PAYABLE

● **JULY 4<sup>th</sup>** INDEPENDENCE DAY FEDERAL HOLIDAY

## MONTGOMERY CAPITAL ROTARY

Recently, Charles Jinright, Montgomery City Counselor, was the Montgomery Capital Rotary Club guest speaker. He spoke briefly about current issues facing the city government. In addition, he brought the current director of Garrett Coliseum, Christina Thornton, with him explain Garrett's transformation since the city assumed control from the state. She briefed us on its history, expanded facility use, and provided updates to the structure.

Garrett was built in 1954. The Coliseum was the first of its kind to have an arched ceiling measuring over 100 feet, and over 7,000 seats without an obstructed view. The original purpose was to help bolster the agriculture industry. In that regard, it continues to do that and is also the location for the Alabama National Fair and the Southeastern Livestock Exposition/Rodeo.



L-R. Charles Jinright, Christina Thornton, and Gary Oos.

Over time, it has hosted concerts from some of the world's greatest entertainers, including Elvis Presley, Elton John, and the Jackson 5, as well as for other performers long before Montgomery had a facility of sufficient size to host such events. For the remainder of the year, the Coliseum has 32 booked events, from the Alabama Truck Driving Championship to the Holiday Mall, scheduled for late November. Facility improvements will continue to make Garrett a viable venue for events in Central Alabama and keep adding to the appeal of the Montgomery Metro Area.

## ROBERTSDALE ROTARY



On April 29<sup>th</sup>, we presented a Charter to the Interact Club of Robertsdale High School. We are very excited to have an Interact Club again at RHS. The club has a current membership of 20. Some of the members have attended RYLA and we are very excited for the future of these young individuals!

We will be hosting our Doc's Hot Trot for ARC-Baldwin County on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at Lulu's in Gulf Shores. Anyone interested in running can register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). The link: [LuLu's presents Doc's Hot Trot for ARC - Gulf Shores, AL 2025](#)

## YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS (IYFR)

The Mobile Bay Compass Rose Fleet of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) met in conjunction with a scheduled meeting of Fairhope Sunset Rotary at the Fairhope Yacht Club and held a Special Membership meeting for the purpose of filling the vacancy of Commodore and general business of the Fleet to further the work of reactivating the fellowship to see us through the end of the current Rotary year and into the next. CONGRATULATIONS to Penny Hughey who was voted in as Commodore.

For more Fleet information, contact:

Penny Hughey, Member, IYFR new Fleet Commodore, Past President - Gulf Shores Orange Beach Rotary Club and Incoming Assistant Governor - District 6880 Area 11.

# MONTGOMERY SUNRISE ROTARY

Montgomery Sunrise Rotary has completed most of the work on the club's district grant project: improvements to the public hiking and biking trail system at Auburn University Montgomery. Club members have installed new benches on the trail system and placed an information kiosk at the trailhead (with cork board and plexiglass doors for the posting of announcements). These improvements are made in memory of our late club member Jimmy Hill, and a plaque on the information kiosk commemorates Jimmy's life of service.



On Saturday, May 3, 2025, Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary by

hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Shrimp Boil. The event was marked by delicious food, great music (courtesy of Eddie Dennis and The Low Five Band), a classic car show, and shared fellowship. Donations totaling \$20,200



were presented to two outstanding nonprofit organizations, Hope Inspired Ministries and Service Dogs of Alabama.



Sunrise Rotary also honored Chappy's Deli owner David Barranco with its 2025 Commitment to Service Award. Because Mr. Barranco had a previous commitment, the award was presented to him a day earlier at Sunrise's weekly Friday meeting.



# SELMA ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Selma launched a new project at Bruce K. Craig Elementary School this school year that provides immediate-need items to 300 students. Rotary Club of Selma used a \$3,000 district Rotary grant to



stock a Caring Closet at the Selma school with items that the students in Pre-K through fifth grades need, but are not ordinarily provided by the district. BK Craig is adjacent to Craig Field and is also home to Southside Primary students after their school closed in 2023 due to mold issues.

“The closet is packed with items such as new uniform pants and shirts, hoodies, undershirts and underwear, socks, deodorant, toothbrushes, snacks and bottled water that Rotary Club hoped would help the students feel comfortable while learning and children learn better when they are feeling

their best,” Fisher said.

When Rotary started the project and selected BK Craig as the recipient, a team of Rotarians met with Principal Alison Turner and other staff to identify needs for the closet. And they found that the school – like many others – already had a closet with a handful of items to meet these immediate needs just at a smaller level. It is manned by secretary, Aurielle Boyd. So the club decided to ramp up the school’s efforts and stock a full Caring Closet. Rotary started by installing a large shelf donated by Rotarian Adam Day. Then they bought several Rubbermaid containers and packed them with the bulk items bought on Amazon since there is no warehouse retailer like Sam’s in the Black Belt. Morgan



Academy’s Interact Club donated hoodies and sweatshirts. Rural Health Medical Program agreed to provide health items like toothbrushes. The team also got donations such as bottled water from Pepsi in Selma and 50 pounds of snack food items from the Selma Area Food Bank. Rotary bought the school a washer-dryer set that was delivered in April so the teachers could wash the Pre-K napmats while at school instead of taking turns taking them home every weekend. President Cindy Fisher said the club wanted to help teachers cover the cost to meet children’s needs that they often pay

for out of their pockets.

“Supplying the children with basic needs items helps them learn better in their school environment, it levels the playing field for those at a disadvantage at home and increases their academic performance and quality of life,” said Fisher, who also is publisher of the Selma Sun and Black Belt News Network. “Not having adequate and appropriate clothing can impact a variety of social and economic aspects of a child’s life, including peer acceptance and education opportunities.”

Principal Turner said the school has been able to send the food home with the children in the most need and appreciates having the uniform shirts and pants for those without extras and mess up their clothes during the day.

“We are so grateful to be one of your partners,” Turner said, adding that having items in a closet “gives the children additional support during the school year.” Dallas County Superintendent Anthony Sampson said it’s the principal’s role to connect with the community and understand the needs of students and their families. What the principal communicates to service organizations like Rotary to fill those needs makes an impact on the students’ learning experience, he said.



## SELMA ROTARY

“The Caring Closet touches more than individual kids – it impacts families,” said Sampson, who is also a member of the Rotary Club of Selma. “We appreciate the work of Rotary and are pleased to partner with the club. They are making a difference in the lives of students.” Fisher added that the project answers Rotary’s motto “Service Above Self” by investing in and supporting the community’s youth. “I wish we could support a Caring Closet in every Selma-Dallas County school,” she added.



The 2025 scholarship went to Sydney Pritchett of Selma High, Delaney McHugh of Morgan Academy, Kenlynn Lawrence of Meadowview Christian, Radiance Ransom of Dallas County High and Saniya Wilson of Saints Virtual Academy. They are here with the family of the Renee Kelley Wilkerson scholarship: Donna and Bob Kelley, Paul Wilkerson and daughter Annese. Also Scholarship Chair Jerria Martin.

The scholarship funds, ranging from \$2,500 to \$400, were given as part of the club’s annual Renee Kelley Wilkerson Memorial Scholarship competition, named in honor of a former Rotary president and owner of Tally Ho Restaurant who passed away in 2017.

The seniors won the funds through a speech competition talking about their academic, extracurricular, community and other accomplishments and plans for higher education achievement in the future. Winners were Sydney Pritchett of Selma High, Delaney McHugh of Morgan Academy, Kenlynn Lawrence of Meadowview Christian, Radiance Ransom of Dallas County High and Saniya Wilson of Saints Virtual

## TUSKEGEE ROTARY



DG Howard visited the Tuskegee Rotary Club recently.



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