

# Rotary



## District 6560

NEWSLETTER

**Demekya McAllen**

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

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## Imagine Rotary



Watch this Rotary year for the opportunity at district events to bid on a print of Darren Jones' Rotary painting!

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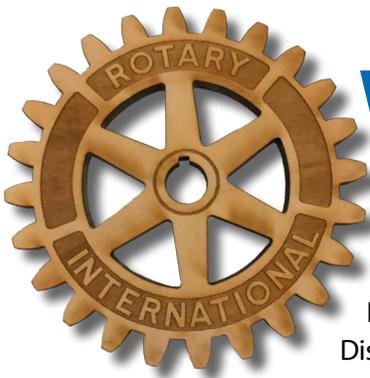
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## IMAGINE ROTARY



# Wheels Up!!

## AND SO IT BEGINS...

The new Rotary year has begun. My name is Mekey McAllen, and I have the honor of being your District Governor for 2022-23.

**“I love the idea of not only imagining grand possibilities for our clubs and our district but accomplishing them together.”**

I am so excited to begin this journey with all of you. The Rotary Theme this year is “Imagine Rotary.” There are so many things that we can accomplish when we use our imagination. So many of us are still feeling the effects of the last two years. I love the idea of not only imagining grand

possibilities for our clubs and our district but accomplishing them together.

Last year, PDG Ray Kramp urged us to “emerge from (our) cocoons... refresh our relationships and re-energize

ourselves (as) People of Action for Rotary.” We are meant to do life together. Let’s knock on the doors of those we have not seen for a while and take care of one another. When waiting to take a flight, the flight attendant instructs us to put our oxygen masks on before we help others, so let us ensure our clubs are oxygenated so that we can assist in making a difference in our communities and our world. Let’s practice self-care, retaining our current members in addition to bringing on others.

I also realize that our ways of doing things have changed. My challenge to you this year is to discover ways to support one another as we modify how we do things. RI President, Jennifer Jones said, “embracing change also means embracing new club models... let’s make sure we engage our members, so they love their clubs and their Rotary experience.”



Remember, you are appreciated!!!  
Let’s do this.

Mekey McAllen, District 6560 Governor



## IMAGINE ROTARY

### “Imagine the possibilities!”

Jennifer Jones believes Rotarians can be the change to transform the world.



*Imagine Rotary* is the 2022-23 presidential theme revealed by RI President-elect Jennifer Jones January 20. The theme’s logo was designed by Riki Salam, an Australian artist and graphic designer specializing in contemporary Indigenous art, design, and communications.

#### Meaning of the design elements.

The circle in aboriginal culture for instance, signifies our connections to one another. The dots around it represent people and there are seven because of Rotary’s areas of focus. The circle and the dots together become a navigation star – our guiding light. The solid line underneath is what is referred to as a digging stick and it is used when doing hard work. And, since Rotary members are people of action – it

represents a tool for getting things done.

The colors green, purple, and white are not necessarily connected to aboriginal culture. President-elect Jennifer Jones asked the new crew of Governors to use one, two, or all three when dressing for official events instead of using a theme jacket. “As we celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion, I wanted all of us to be able to express ourselves differently in what we wear, but still have connection”, Jones explained.

There are several ways to interpret the colors: Purple for example stands for polio eradication, green for the environment, the newest addition to our areas of focus, and white for peace, our core mission. Together, they are the colors of the women’s movement, the Suffragette – a subtle nod to this history as Jones pointed out, since she will be the first female RI president.



Imagine a world that deserves our best where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference."

— Jennifer Jones  
RI President

## Meet President Jennifer Jones

Ready to spread the word about the good Rotary does in the world, and inspire its members to keep going.

At a training seminar for Rotary club presidents-elect at a Dallas-area hotel in February, sergeants-at-arms wearing yellow vests and Stetsons lead participants, grouped by Rotary district, into a small room for a photo op with 2022-23 Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. As the groups enter, the club leaders mob Jones — the room a flurry of handshakes, fist bumps, hugs, and the occasional squeal. For each photo, the Stetson-clad Rotarians give instructions on who should stand where, then Jones, who is seated front-row center, stands up, turns around, and warms up the crowd.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

## Imagine One's Dream – The Painting

There is a print of a painting by Darren Jones (brother of Jennifer Jones) that will be available as an auction item at district events. The money raised will go to the Rotary Foundation.

Says Darren, "The painting I created is considered a mixed media contemporary abstract piece on wood panel. The panel is where I begin with the layers of texture, followed by the colours. The layers of texture included beach sand (from our family cottage in Ontario), plaster, industrial staples and shredded papers. The paper that I shredded and used was extracted from the Rotary website to include the "Objects of Rotary and the Four Way Test" If you look closely, the placement of the paper created a more formalized grid pattern at the top of the painting and moves down to the more abstract and random feel of its placement. This is done purposely to represent the movements in life, from the planned to the unexpected. The sand not only ties in the importance of family since it comes from our cottage, but the sand also is an element that glass is created from, representing the ideals of clarity, strength and transparency.

"Once the textures are layered and dry, I begin the colour process. This is all done by hand, (literally) with the paints

applied directly to my hands and then onto the panel. I do not use paint brushes or palette knives, just my hands. For this painting, the colour palette was inspired by not



*Darren Jones and his painting.*

only the colours of Rotary, but from the Presidential theme. I used many of the exact colours, but as each layer is blended, they create their own versions of new colours. This painting has approximately 80 layers of colour blended over top of each other. Many are washed over each layer to add to the soft elegant feel of the painting. The gradient shading is also done on purpose to create a more landscape emotion, representing the horizon we all walk towards!!"

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Darren Jones is a Chicago based artist who captures nature's beauty in his paintings which evoke emotion and a sense of humanity. Born in Canada, he is a self-taught artist who enjoys working in oil, acrylic and mixed mediums on canvas or wood panels. Jones' work is impressionistic, abstract and contemporary in style. "The world and its never-ending natural surroundings inspire my soul and my work. Many of the world's natural wonders act as a muse."

With his current collection, he tries to evoke a sense of peace, place and calm within one's humanity. Moving from the simple to the complex while maintaining a sense of order, many of his works incorporate delicate recycled papers, wood fibers, industrial staples, plaster and beach sand mixed with acrylic paints to create a greater depth to his work.

Jones work is highly regarded and is featured in galleries and private collections in over 50 countries across North America, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. Most recently, he was featured in New York's Times Square on a five-story billboard.

Jones is a supporter of a variety of organizations and charitable events. He helps raise funds through his art for groups that support children, treat mental illness and AIDS/HIV.

[www.darrencjones.com](http://www.darrencjones.com)

## Around the District

### Installations

#### BROWNSBURG

We are looking forward to a great start of the new Rotary year! Last week was an action-packed meeting. We recognized and thanked our now Immediate Past President, Doug Hammel and commend him for a job well done. We welcomed our new Club President, Jeanette Hammel and new Club Secretary, Anne Fields. It was a pleasure to host District Governor Ray Kramp on his last official day in office. The fu-



*Jeanette Hammel and Doug Hammel*



*Scholarship recipients*

ture of the Rotary Club of Brownsburg is bright! Our meeting was completed by the induction of our newest members and the awarding of more Senior Scholarships than ever before in club history. We hope you'll join us at our new location, "The Locale" 932 E Main St, Brownsburg, IN 46112 each Thursday at 12:00 noon!

#### AVON

**GREAT MEMORIES...NEW BEGINNINGS.** With the Rotary year officially beginning on July 1, it was time to pass the gavel at Avon Rotary. Outgoing President Ryan Sinclair thanked the club for helping his term go well with support from Board members and reliable participation in service from members. He pledged to remain involved and to give incoming President Dustin LeMay any support needed. Dustin expressed his excitement in taking this leadership leap knowing that, like Ryan, he will have a good deal of support. Both Ryan and Dustin are Avon High School graduates taught by Rotarian Pam Lyons, who was present to cheer



*Dustin LeMay and Ryan Sinclair*

them on and take some photos. With the 2022-2023 Rotary International theme of IMAGINE ROTARY, this local club of Rotarians will continue to impact their community and their world through service.

#### MUNCIE SUNRISE

The Muncie Sunrise Rotary Club celebrated the transition of officers for the 2022-2023 Rotary year on July 8, 2022. Mark McKinney, retiring 2021-2022 President, introduced the incoming President, Ben Polk. The club also celebrated the transition of officers for the new Rotary year. During the meeting, Polk gave a presentation about his goals, objectives, and dreams for the year ahead. Ben began his time in Rotary as a member of the Ball State University Rotaract Club and joined Muncie Sunrise in 2019.



*Mark McKinney and Ben Polk*

"I am thrilled to be able to serve the members of our club and our community at large in this new capacity," stated Polk. "I'm excited to grow our club and our presence across the Muncie community."

Some of Sunrise Rotary's upcoming service projects include working at the upcoming Fire Up Downtown event, supplying food to those in need with Second Harvest Foodbank, and building with ecoREHAB of Muncie. In fair weather months, members from both Rotary Clubs clean up Rotary Park along the Cardinal Greenway.



## Club Focus: Indianapolis East

The Rotary Club of Indianapolis East was chartered by Rotary International in June of 1989 to serve the Eastside of Indianapolis. Each year, the club awards scholarships to graduates of Warren Central High School. They have awarded over \$150,000 thus far. Just before fall break each school year, the club partners with Meijer to provide students with a brand-new pair of shoes. They support Sunny Day Warren Township, a food, clothing, and toiletry pantry that serves families in the community and the Old Bethel Food Pantry located at the corner of 21st Street and Franklin Road in Indianapolis.

## DG Mekey Joins Indianapolis East Rotary Club for Service Project

By Ryan Henry

District Governor Mekey McAllen joined the Indianapolis East Rotary Club for our volunteer day at Sonny Day Warren Township, a food and clothing pantry operated by the Warren Council of PTAs, on the far Eastside of Indianapolis. In only two hours, Rotarians helped provide food and clothing to 88 families.

"We started volunteering as a club at Sonny Day in 2020 at the suggestion of our club members" said Ryan Henry, Immediate Past Club President. "We had several members who already volunteered there and suggested we invite their founder, Carissa Dollar, to speak."



*From the left, Rotarian Julie French, Carly Henry, District Governor Mekey McAllen, Immediate Past President Ryan Henry, Club President Steven Powell, Rotarian Kathryn Basham, Rotarian Martinlow Spaulding and Rotarian Phil Talbert.*

Dollar's presentation to our club inspired members to pledge donations to Sonny Day, which quickly grew to a total of \$1,000.00. With the help of a District Grant in 2020, we were able to double our total donation in 2020 to \$2,000.00 and presented a check during our first group volunteer event.

"Since then, our club has continued to volunteer as a group quarterly. It's a great way to serve our community and get to know the members of our club," Henry said.

Saturday (July 9) marked the beginning of Sonny Day Warren Township's 10th year serving the community, and Club President Steven Powell's first service project of the year. Our District Governor Mekey McAllen was also able to join us.

We invite Rotarians to volunteer at Sonny Day Warren Township. You can see their current volunteer needs [here](#).

# Rotary



# PEOPLE of ACTION



Rotary International President Jennifer Jones

## Presidential Initiatives

### INITIATIVES OVERVIEW

Rotary International President Jennifer Jones imagines a Rotary where members act to make their dreams become reality and make the most of their club experiences. During her year, Jones will focus on four presidential initiatives that Imagine Rotary: advancing our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI); cre-

ating a welcoming club experience; empowering girls; and expanding our reach.

### IMAGINE: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

Diversity is one of Rotary's longstanding core values and greatest strengths. Jones knows there is more to be done to ensure that Rotary's culture exemplifies our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Rotary, with input and guidance from the DEI Task Force, has strengthened our commitment to DEI, resulting in a greater focus on celebrating every individual's contributions, advancing equity, and creating a more welcoming and inclusive culture.

President Jennifer Jones encourages each of us to do our part to ensure Rotary is a welcoming and inclusive community by:

1. Learning more about DEI in Rotary, including understanding definitions and how to celebrate and respect our differences.
2. Determining why DEI matters to our club and community and how using DEI principles can help our club grow and become stronger.
3. Raising awareness of DEI, including creating a DEI committee in your club that reflects the demographics of your community.

4. Taking action on DEI in our club and community. For instance, educating yourself about underrepresented groups in your community in order to become a more knowledgeable and effective advocate for DEI.

Learn more and take action by reading the [DEI PRESIDENTIAL BROCHURE](#).

Find additional resources on our [DEI WEB PAGE](#). [WATCH](#) what Jones hopes to accomplish with DEI.

### IMAGINE A WELCOMING CLUB EXPERIENCE: COMFORT AND CARE

Rotary has an important role to play to ensure that the club environment and experience is welcoming, inclusive, and enjoyable for all members and participants. Surveys show that comfort and care is the single greatest driver of satisfaction and our most powerful tool for retention. This begins with listening to and understanding what members and participants want out of their Rotary involvement. We often speak of the importance of "exit interviews" to better understand why former members leave. But why wait for them to leave? Jones urges club leaders to incorporate "entrance interviews" as well to understand the needs and expectations of new members at the outset. And of course, be sure to regularly survey all existing members, to ensure they have an opportunity to share thoughts about their membership experience.

Watch Jones talk about her [COMFORT AND CARE](#) initiative.

### EMPOWERING GIRLS

Jones will continue past RI President Shekhar Mehta's Girls Empowerment initiative, recognizing that empowered girls become empowered women. Share your Girls Empowerment projects on Showcase.

### IMAGINE IMPACT: EXPANDING ROTARY'S REACH MEDIA TOURS

Imagine Expanding Rotary's Reach Throughout the year, Jones will visit eight service projects that represent each of Rotary's areas of focus and polio eradication. The tour will provide examples of how Rotary can make a measurable difference, while introducing Rotary to new audiences and potential partners and influencers.

[CLICK HERE](#) for access to more links, resources, and video messages from Jennifer Jones.

“ Together, as leaders, we have taken steps to strengthen our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and this is an important step for our organization.”

— Jennifer Jones  
RI President