



The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
 September 19, 2022
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 Rotary Club of Jonesboro
 P.O. Box 654
 Jonesboro, AR 72403
 Chartered August 1, 1919

This Week's Program -- September 20, 2022

A-State SPOCS Team

Starting in the fall semester of 2020, the Honors College of Arkansas State University was approached by faculty to create a proposal for the NASA Student Payload Opportunity with Citizen Science (SPOCS) to send an experiment to the International Space Station. From this request, seven students began to create an experiment in sustainability in microgravity, finally deciding upon testing the wax worms' ability to break down polyethylene in space. Over time, the group known as the Arkansas State Science Support System was singled out as one of the ten finalists nationally, and finally one of the five contest winners, obtaining funding to launch their project to the International Space Station and work with Nettleton STEAM as well as Blessed Sacrament.



The SPOCS team includes seven students: Benjamin Whitfield of Little Rock, an electrical engineering major and team leader; Landon Perdue of Brookland, Mason Rhodes of Benton, and Jacob Oster of Bay, who are mechanical engineering majors; and Katherine Willis of Blue Springs, Mo., Claire Greene of Conway and Hannah Seats of Brookland, who are biological sciences majors.

Titled "Microgravity Environment Impact on Plastic Biodegradation by *Galleria mellonella*," their proposal is described as an experiment to discover the ability of wax worms to degrade plastics in space.

Come hear more about this important experiment that could provide the answers for a more sustainable environment on earth now and in the future. Dr. Maureen Dolan, associate professor of molecular biology and director of the biotechnology program, along with Shea Harris, Arkansas Biosciences Institute outreach director, mentored the students.

Rededication of Rotary Centennial Park

Several Rotarians were on hand for the rededication of Rotary Centennial Park on Saturday, September 17.



Club Leaders



Will Branch
 President



Erika Krennerich Chudy
 President - Elect



Dana L. Kennedy
 Secretary



Nancy Elphingstone
 Treasurer
 Club Service Chair



Jennifer Hannah
 President - Nominee
 Vocational Service Chair



Ruth A. Hawkins
 Rotary Foundation
 Chair



Adam Robert Sartin
 Assistant Governor

Events

September 20th
[Jonesboro Club Meeting](#)
[September 20, 2022 - A-State SPOCS Team](#)

September 27th
[Jonesboro Club Meeting](#)
[September 27, 2022 - Brad Hyde, Arisa](#)

Birthdays



Isabella Baughn
September 29th



Kevin W Gore
October 1st



Blake A. Guinn
October 4th



Berl A. Smith
October 5th



John P. Miles II
October 10th



Kenna S. Harrelson
October 18th



Food Bank Project

Twelve Rotarians showed up to work at the Food Bank of NEA and packed 160 boxes of food.



Dates to Remember

October 6 -- Plate It Forward

Houlihans at Embassy Suites is holding a Plate It Forward event. They will donate a percentage of all the food purchased that night to the Rotary Club of Jonesboro. Come enjoy dinner out and increase

the donation.

October 27 -- Rotary Foundation Dinner

This event is held Thursday, October 27, 2022, from 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM, at Heifer International, 1 World Avenue in Little Rock. The speaker is Beth Stubbs, RI Director Nominee for 2023.

October 28 -- Last Day to Purchase Anywhere in the World Tickets

There are only 500 tickets to sell in all of our District. The winning ticket will pay for **two (2) roundtrip airline tickets**, economy fare, to anywhere in the world they want to go **and dinner for two (2)** at the destination chosen by the winner. (Some restrictions apply.)

Good News -- September 13, 2022

Al Poston carried the mic for Good News.

Wes Eddington loved the beautiful weather outside and then reminded everyone that taxes were soon due.

Brian Rega said that **Crystal Bruner** was on track to be a Rotarian. She was given the formal introduction today.

Vanna Headley announced that tomorrow was her eldest son's birthday.

Greg Hansen gave blood and got a Cardinal's t-shirt which he gave away at Rotary.

Al Poston announced that Good News today would also be for people without money.

June Morse's granddaughter took the oath to be an attorney yesterday. She and her husband were stationed together at the Air Force Academy.

Ray Keller put in \$5 to pay for June's Good News and for four other people who didn't bring money with them to Rotary.

Last Week's Program -- September 13, 2022



Methodist Family Health Foundation

Methodist Family Health is a complete continuum of care for Arkansas children and their families who are abandoned, abused, neglected, and struggling with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional, and spiritual issues. At last week's meeting, Bec Dwyer, Director of Development, explained some of the services provided by the foundation.

Why are there so many children in Arkansas that need this care? Dwyer said that there was only so much that Medicaid can do. Therefore, it takes non-profit agencies to step in to help rebuild the lives of children. Children are the future so Methodist Family Health stepped up to stabilize the behavior and improve the treatment so children can return to the communities and live stable,

functional lives, helping both the children and their families.

Some of the services include:

- behavioral care during a crisis
- psychiatric residential treatment centers
- patient referral services
- centers for addictions
- day treatment school for children having problems in a traditional school setting
- counseling in clinics or schools
- grief centers
- education and employment preparation
- spiritual guidance

The foundation uses the teaching-family model which uses a family-like setting which includes teaching-parents who provide intervention and support in the mode and manner of a parent. Any child should feel normal.

The foundation depends on donations and money raised goes directly to help children. It has helped 4,337 children and 108,928 families.

Report Card -- September 13, 2022

Membership

Total Active Members - 109

Active members - 51

Active-Service - 30

Active-Partner - 5

Active-Modern - 3

Active-LOA - 1

"Active Rule of 85" members - 19

Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 34

Active Members - 30

Friends of Rotary - 0

Honorary members - 0

Proposed - 1

Guests - 3

Attendance Percentage for this Meeting -- 30.2% [Read More](#)