

## The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
November 6, 2023  
Volume 106, Issue 18  
Rotary Club of Jonesboro  
P.O. Box 654  
Jonesboro, AR 72403  
Chartered August 1, 1919

## This Week's Program -- November 7, 2023

### Finding Loving Homes for Pets

Founded in 1971, Northeast Arkansas Humane Society is a 501c non-profit animal shelter devoted to placing surrendered or abandoned pets into loving homes. For years, their commitment has been to ensure that every animal has food, shelter and comfort as they transition them into new homes. The NEA Humane Society gives a voice to animals. Adoption is one of the noblest ways to become a pet parent. Without this facility, many cats and dogs would go without the help they need. The shelter relies on donations, volunteers and the open-hearts of NEA residents to give their furbabies the chance they deserve.

Dr. Amy Schmidt is the new Director of the NEA Humane Society. She will be our speaker today. Find out how you can help the humane society provide for dogs and cats who don't have a home to call their own.



## Club Leaders



Erika Krennerich Chudy  
President



Jennifer Hannah  
President-Elect  
Public Image Chair



Dana L. Kennedy  
Secretary



Jeremy Todd Watson  
Treasurer



Will Branch  
Assistant Governor

## Breast Cancer Awareness

On Tuesday, October 31, after our Rotary meeting, **Chad Chadwick** held the drawing for our 50/50 raffle. Tickets were sold for \$1 each, with proceeds being split between St. Bernards Foundation in support of Breast Cancer Awareness and the lucky winner who bought a ticket. Program speaker Coach Bryan Hodgson was asked to draw the winning ticket.

The project raised \$1,071; St. Bernards Foundation received \$536 and winner **Ray Keller** received \$535. Keller very generously donated his part to St. Bernards Foundation. This money will be used locally to help fight breast cancer.

A big thank you to all who supported this project.



**President Erika Chudy** and Lydia Parker of St. Bernards Development Foundation hold the check for Breast Cancer Awareness.

## Events

November 7th  
Jonesboro Club Meeting  
November 7, 2023 -Dr. Amy Schmidt

November 14th  
Jonesboro Club Meeting  
November 14, 2023-  
Shawnee Cooper

## Birthdays



Sam W. Hummelstein  
November 5th

June Carole Morse  
November 6th

## New Member



[Yaoska Angy Abaunza](#)  
November 10th



[Donald Cooper](#)  
November 10th



[Mackenzie R Fogarty](#)  
November 10th



[Justin McFarland](#)  
November 11th



[Cheryl Wall](#)  
November 14th



[Marie-Jose Patton](#)  
November 15th



[Chad Chadwick](#)  
November 27th



[Les Tainter](#)  
November 30th



[Terell Bowie](#)  
December 1st



[Eugene J. Wing](#)  
December 4th



**On October 31, Jim Washam was introduced as our newest member.**

**Welcome, Jim.**

## Important Projects

### ***Food Bank Volunteering -- November 21***

We will meet at the Food Bank for lunch and then pack boxes afterward.

### ***Become a Social Media Influencer***

Raise money for the Rotary Foundation. Get 1000 people to donate \$1. Winner gets to go to the Foundation Dinner in Jonesboro in February.

### ***Imagination Library***

For a \$26 donation to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, you can provide books for a child. If a child is signed up at birth, he'll receive up to 60 different books by the time he reaches the age of five, when he officially ages out.

### ***Polio Plus Society***

Become a charter member of the PolioPlus Society (PPS) by committing a minimum of \$100 per year to the PolioPlus Fund. Society members receive a special PPS pin, an End Polio Now bracelet, and a certificate.

## Good News -- October 31, 2023

**Guy Patteson** carried the mic for Good News.

**Angy Abaunza** announced that Souper Sunday was this Sunday, November 5. She had tickets to sell and flyers to take back to work for anyone who wanted to participate.

**John Deacon's** grandson plays flag football in Little Rock. The organization teaches sportsmanship and builds character.

**Jana Haskins**, with Beck Pride at A-State, will have raffle tickets next week in support of Beck Pride.

**Bill Burnett** went to Arizona last week where he attended several sports events.

**Gregory Hansen** was pleased that Texas beat Arizona last week. (The Texas Rangers won the World Series.)

**Brian Rega** gave money for polio eradication.

**Nancy Elphinstone** said A-State basketball scored over 100 points in their two exhibition games and the team was definitely worth watching.

**Ray Keller** went to the World Series and bought two tickets that cost more than his first house.

## Last Week's Program -- October 31, 2023

### ***Coaching Basketball and Love***

Coach Bryan Hodgson was our speaker last week. He is the new basketball coach at A-State. He began the program talking about his plans for the team and about the individual players. The team played two exhibition games and showed fans that they were worth watching. Hodgson sets a rigorous daily schedule for the team, working them 10-12 hours per day to get them ready to play while also focusing on their studies.

But Hodgson isn't interested in tooting his own horn or discussing his recruiting efforts. Yes, he's quite proud of his record, but he also feels compelled to get the message out about something that has impacted his life even more than hoops. He wants to bring some major awareness to the fostering and adoption process. His reason is his own unbelievable journey.

Hodgson was born in 1987 at Olean General Hospital. His mother was 15. His biological father was not in the picture. "To her credit, she did try to raise me," Bryan said. "She also tried to go to school and (graduate)." One day he was sick and could not go to school with his mother. His mother's boyfriend was to watch him while she was at school. However, the boyfriend was on drugs and "was not a good guy." So when Hodgson became fussy that day and went on an extended crying jag, the boyfriend's response was to "pick me up at 1 years old and set me on a burning wood stove in my diaper. I had third-degree burns all the way down the upper part of my legs. I was put in foster care immediately."

Fortunately, he would receive so much more. After 18 months as their foster child, the Hodgsons adopted Bryan. He eventually played basketball while attending high school; he did the same at community college. He loved the game of basketball and that led to his career choice. "My childhood and my situation — being a foster child, being raised by an orphan mother and a son of a World War II prisoner-of-war — developed me to be a relationship person," Bryan said. "I think that's the biggest thing in recruiting. It's nothing else. It's about being able to tell people you genuinely care about them."

He established the Coaching Love, Inc., to raise awareness through the game of basketball and other sports, for at-risk youth, particularly those in the foster care system, and or waiting to be adopted.



## Report Card -- October 31, 2023

By Dana L. Kennedy

Total Active Members - 104

Active members - 56

Active-Service - 16

Active-Partner - 4

Active-Modern - 3

Active-LOA - 1

"Active Rule of 85" members - 18

Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 46

Active Members - 37

Friends of Rotary - 0

Honorary members - 0

Proposed - 0

Guests - 9 [Read More](#)