

The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
January 15, 2024
Volume 106, Issue 27
Rotary Club of Jonesboro
P.O. Box 654
Jonesboro, AR 72403
Chartered August 1, 1919

Club Leaders



Erika Krennerich Chudy
President



Jennifer Hannah
President-Elect
Public Image Chair



Dana L. Kennedy
Secretary



Jeremy Todd Watson
Treasurer

Events

January 16th
Jonesboro Club Meeting Jan 16 Phil Shupe, Shupe & Assoc.

January 23rd
Jonesboro Club Meeting Jan 23 -Dr. Mickey Latour, Dean, A-State

January 30th
Jonesboro Club Meeting Jan 30 -Ronnie Sturch, E-911 Director

Birthdays



Will Branch
January 20th



John T. Sloan
January 22nd



Amy Hughes
February 3rd



Joe Turney
February 6th



Mickey Latour
February 11th



Mark Alan Morrow
February 12th

This Week's Program -- January 16, 2024

Ukraine Water Project

This week our program is given by Rotarian Phil Shupe. Phil is an engineer involved with water and wastewater projects, both in the United States and abroad, working to provide clean drinking water to countries including Guatemala, Haiti, Brazil, Nepal and Ukraine. Phil has been involved with Shupe & Associates for over 25 years in process design and selling water and waste water equipment.



Phil is an active member of the Rotary Club of North Little Rock since 2013. Last year our club helped provide 1800 Sawyer membrane filters and buckets in Ukraine in the Dnipro area where they have been bombed by the Russians. The Russians also bombed the dam in that area that provides irrigation and drinking water for 16 million people. Phil has been involved with Shupe & Associates for over 25 years in the process designing and selling water and waste water equipment.

Come hear about the Ukraine Water Project and how the war is effecting getting water to this region. Bring a friend or colleague and let them hear how Rotary works in the world. It should prove to be an interesting and informative program.

Don't Forget the Peanut Butter

Bring peanut butter to the meeting!

Our January service project is to bring peanut butter. Bring as much as you can. It will be donated to the A-State Food Bank at our January 23 meeting.



Our January 23 meeting will be held at the Judd Hill farmers market.

Save the Date

February 23 -- Rotary Foundation Gala

The Rotary Gala is set for Friday, February 23rd at 6 p.m. in the beautiful Woodard McAlister Family Club. The event will be a celebration of the accomplishments of our District Rotary Foundation Ambassadors. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be dancing to the sounds of Thump Daddy of Memphis, TN. Attire will be dressy-casual.

Good News -- January 9, 2024

Kathleen Pruitt carried the mic for Good News.

Melissa Martin warned everyone that a big freeze was coming and reminded us she worked for Servpro.

Jeff Purinton, A-State's Athletic Director, said there was a double-header in basketball this Friday.

Norman Stafford was glad to be at Rotary. He predicted the A-State Women's Basketball Team would go to the Conference Championship.

Jana Haskins reminded everyone there were warming shelters at the Salvation Army, Allen Park, and Earl Bell Center.



Robert L. Warner Jr.
February 12th

Last Week's Program -- January 9, 2024

By Shaila Creekmore

Special Olympics Arkansas

Fellow Rotarian and member of the Rotary Club of Jonesboro-University, Jay Clevenger, was joined by Field Representative Theresa Book for last week's meeting presentation of Special Olympics of Arkansas. Clevenger is a member of the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Arkansas and currently serves on the executive committee.



Special Olympics of Arkansas (SOAR) began in Arkansas in 1970, just two years after the first special Olympic games were held in Chicago, and is now the largest sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities. The mission of Special Olympics Arkansas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

SOAR currently employs 12 staff members, all now full-time, including Book who has served the organization since 2014. Special Olympics statistics show that one in every six families are touched by Special Olympics through athletes, volunteers, and supporters.

All training, equipment, and games, whether local or world games, are free to all athletes ages 2-years-old and up. Fifteen different sports are offered through SOAR to 19,500 athletes, as well as health screenings and wellness education state-wide.

In addition to the games, SOAR offers a number of programs and volunteer opportunities across Arkansas:

- The **Young Athletes** program is specialized for children ages 2-7 to develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination.
- **SO College** connects college students and individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport to build friendships and help lead the social justice movement of Special Olympics.
- **Unified Champion Schools** promotes general ed students coming together with Special Olympic athletes to compete together. Brookland and Nettleton schools are set to compete in an upcoming bowling tournament being held at Hijinx as part of Unified Champions.
- **Unified Sports** likewise combines an approximately equal number of Special Olympics athletes and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition.
- **Healthy Athletes** program works closely with NYIT and other medical training colleges to train them how to properly communicate with athletes and their families. The program also works closely with health care professionals to provide needed care.
- **Law Enforcement Torch Run** is the largest public awareness vehicle and a grass-roots Special Olympics fundraiser for Special Olympics in which law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the Flame of Hope into the Opening Ceremony of competitions. What began as a 30-mile run in Arkansas in 1987 is now a four-day relay that covers more than 1200 miles and 700 runners.
- **Polar Bear Plunge** is an annual event across various Arkansas locations where athletes and supporters jump into freezing cold water to support Special Olympics. The Paragould Plunge, set for Jan. 27 at Crowley's Ridge State Park, is the second largest in the state. The Jonesboro Plunge will be held on Feb. 6 on the A-State Campus.

Special Olympics of Arkansas has started a capital campaign to rebuild their headquarters in North Little Rock. The old buildings that served as their offices and storage had to be torn down following severe water damage from freezing temperatures in February 2021. In addition to the needed office space, the building is greatly needed for storage of athletic equipment and supplies for games held around the state. The organization has raised more than \$825,000 toward their \$3 million goal. Any gifts over \$25,000 has naming rights opportunities and gifts over \$1,000 will be recognized on the Arkansas Legacy Wall within the building.

Book said the greatest need of the organization is volunteers to help coach and train athletes in various sports. To learn more, view their website at www.specialolympicsarkansas.org/

Report Card -- January 9, 2024

Total Active Members - 109
Active members - 61
Active-Service - 16
Active-Partner - 4
Active-Modern - 3
Active-LOA - 1
Active Rule of 85 members - 18
Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 45
Active Members - 39
Friends of Rotary - 0
Honorary members - 0
Proposed - 2
Guests - 4 [Read More](#)