

The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
April 29, 2024
Volume 106, Issue 42
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

April 30th
Jonesboro Club Meeting April 30, 2024 - Beverly Parker

May 7th
Jonesboro Club Meeting May 7, 2024 - Casey Pearce, NYITCOM

May 14th
Jonesboro Club Meeting May 14, 2024 - Mayor Harold Copenhaver

Birthdays

Heather D Coats
April 28th



Jon David Carmack
May 1st



Hatton Weeks
May 12th



Erika Krennerich Chudy
May 12th



Emelda LaVonne Williams
May 18th

Jeff Purinton
May 19th

Jared White
May 26th

This Week's Program -- April 30, 2024

A Journey to Clean, Green & Beautiful: State & Local Initiatives



Fellow Rotarian and Past President **Beverly Parker**, chair of the Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Commission, will present the program this week. She plans to discuss what the commission is doing and how we can be an advocate for keeping our home beautiful.

Keep Jonesboro Beautiful is a commission dedicated to keeping the City of Jonesboro clean, green, and beautiful by building and maintaining a robust city beautification program to improve livability, boost civic pride, and enhance economic development. It is an official affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.

Keep Jonesboro Beautiful encourages individuals, neighborhoods and community groups to take action every day to improve and beautify their local environment.

Come listen to what's been done and what we can do in Jonesboro as well as the state to keep our home clean, green, and beautiful. Bring a friend or colleague.

In the News

Rotary Scholarship

Our Rotary scholarship was awarded to Sydney Newman of Valley View High School. Sydney plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and major in biology.



Memorial Reception

Members are invited to a memorial reception for **Steve McFerron** on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at Embassy Suites, Red Wolf Convention Center. Social visitation will be held from 5:00 - 7:50 p.m. with remarks at 6:00 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. Reply by May 16, 2024, to mwmcferron@aol.com or call 870-897-3500.

Good News -- April 23, 2024

Allen Craig carried the mic for Good News.

President Erika Chudy showed a picture of the Jonesboro Radio Group using the Rotary Centennial Plaza for its meeting.

PP Will Branch said the fundraiser shrimp boil was coming together. Tickets are \$25 each and can be bought online or from Rotary members. He will get everyone tickets to sell. The Shrimp Boil is scheduled for June 14 from 4 - 7 p.m. Pick up will be at the Centennial Plaza.

Norman Stafford pointed out that Valley View Interact Student Elizabeth Jones had hair color just like his once was.

Speaker and fellow Rotarian **Jeff Molby** said that Arkansas' weather was nice and the state was beautiful.



Michael R. Weaver
May 28th

Last Week's Program -- April 23, 2024



ChemoRiders: A Rotary Journey of Hope

We were honored last week to hear the story of Jeff Molby, a Rotarian from Caro, Michigan, who has been volunteering for the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life for the last few years. He is a minimalist who loves to travel. Last year he sold everything and set off on a two-year bike tour around the country in order to help people get to their chemo appointments. His mission is to raise money and recruit drivers to get patients to their lifesaving treatments.

Jeff best told his story in his own words:

I have pedaled over 4,000 miles already and I'm just getting started because that is NOTHING compared to the 10 or 20 miles that stand in between some people and the cancer treatments that could save their lives.

I believe that EVERY cancer patient deserves to get the recommended treatments on the recommended schedule. It's not that simple for everybody, though, especially when the family is being battered by a long, costly battle with cancer. The American Cancer Society has a program to help with this problem. It's basically like Uber except the driver is a volunteer, the ride is free for the patient, and the goal is to save a life.

It's helped countless people going all the way back to the early 80s, but it's been way short on drivers since the pandemic. Nationwide, more than HALF of the requested rides are being denied right now because we just don't have enough drivers.

Our Rotary theme this year is "Create Hope in the World". If you've ever been to an ACS event, you know that word...

Hope... is at the very center of EVERYTHING they do.
Hope... that the next batch of research will pan out.
Hope... that people will go get screened in time.
Hope... that the insurance company will cover the treatments.
Hope... that future generations will have no idea what any of this is like.

I have a friend back home who's on her third fight with cancer and she's hoping she can hang on long enough to see her daughter graduate.

We do EVERYthing in our power... and then we hope.

So when my son went off to college last fall, I got on my bike and set off with the HOPE that I could find some drivers along the way. Mother Nature chose my path for me; a beeline to Florida for the winter, Arkansas in time for the eclipse, summer in Minnesota, and continuing to follow the seasons as I head West until I get to San Diego in early 2026.



Everywhere I go, my hope is renewed as one by one; I meet people eager to be a part of the solution. Last year, drivers in the Little Rock area generously gave 46 rides, but we had to deny 27 other requests because we just didn't have a driver available. In other parts of Arkansas, we don't even have enough drivers to activate the program. ACS tries to cover those gaps by providing \$161,000 in grants to support the transportation options of various health centers throughout the state, but even that's just a drop in the bucket. I think of all the health challenges that are sooo big that they really need giant, organizational action. We certainly know that from Polio, where so much of the fight happens on the other side of the world.

But these are your neighbors and all they need is a ride. You can see a list of where people need to go and you drive volunteer for the ones that fit your schedule. You can drive one-way or roundtrip, whichever you have time for. For more information on my journey, local ACS events, or how to volunteer, please visit ChemoRiders.org/Arkansas or call the 24/7 hotline at 1-800-227-2345.

Report Card -- April 23, 2024

Total Active Members - 109
Active members - 64
Active-Service - 16
Active-Partner - 4
Active-Modern - 3
Active-LOA - 1
Active Rule of 85 members - 18
Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 49
Active Members - 41
Friends of Rotary - 0
Honorary members - 0
Proposed - 0
Guests - 8 [Read More](#)