

The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
 May 6, 2024
 Volume 106, Issue 43
 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

May 7th

[Jonesboro Club Meeting May 7, 2024 - Casey Pearce, NYITCOM](#)

May 14th

[Jonesboro Club Meeting May 14, 2024 - Mayor Harold Copenhaver](#)

Birthdays



[Hatton Weeks](#)
May 12th



[Erika Krennerich Chudy](#)
May 12th



[Emelda LaVonne Williams](#)
May 18th



[Jeff Purinton](#)
May 19th



[Jared White](#)
May 26th



[Michael R. Weaver](#)
May 28th



[Lori Chandler](#)
June 2nd

This Week's Program -- May 7, 2024

Update on New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine

Casey Pearce, Director of External Relations & Marketing for NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine on the campus of Arkansas State University, will provide an update on the college. NYITCOM is more than a medical school. They have focused on the mission of training physicians to address the significant healthcare and health education needs in one of the most medically underserved regions of the country. In addition to their D.O. program, they also offer a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences and a Master of Public Health degree.



Arkansas ranks near the bottom of all U.S. states in physicians per capita and is among the poorest in a number of health outcomes including diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and premature death. Those numbers are driven by the health access and health education disparities prevalent in the counties in the eastern portion of the state that make up part of the greater Mississippi Delta region.

NYITCOM-Arkansas opened in 2016 and is located on Arkansas State University's Jonesboro campus. Their proximity to substantial healthcare needs makes them uniquely situated to improve access to healthcare and health education in the state and the region.

Come hear how NYITCOM is helping to alleviate the shortage of healthcare. Bring a friend or colleague.

Save the Date

May 1-28 -- Fill the Pack -- Summer Food Program

We will be assisting Westside Schools with replenishing their food supplies for their summer backpack program. Donations will be accepted for the month of May. Item examples: boxed Ravioli's, canned fruit, peanut butter, breakfast bars, Pop-Tarts, cereal, etc.

June 14 -- Shrimp Boil Fundraiser

All Hands on Deck! This is our 1 big fundraiser of the year. Come to one of our Shrimp Boil meetings at 11:00 before our Tuesday meetings or contact **Will Branch** to learn how you can help.

The Rotary Club of Jonesboro's 2024 Shrimp Boil. Pickup is June 14, 2024, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Rotary Centennial Plaza, downtown Jonesboro.

Good News -- April 30, 2024

Robert Green carried the mic for Good News.

Ray Keller said that the men at his table had 400 years of Rotary among them. He congratulated **President Erika Chudy** for a great Rotary year and for being awarded as Rotary President of the Year.

Norman Stafford gave money for polio eradication.

PP Beverly Parker gave kudos to ASU for being in the Sun Belt Conference.

DGE Brian Rega was so proud of the club at the District Conference and of **President Erika Chudy** for being President of the Year. He announced that next year's District Conference would be held in Jonesboro.

Last Week's Program -- April 30, 2024

Rotary shares an interest in protecting our common legacy: the environment.

Last week, Rotarian **Beverly Parker** spoke about Rotary's new focus: the environment. The Rotary Foundation will enable our members and their community allies to take action in these ways:

- Protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine, and freshwater resources
- Enhancing the capacity of communities to support natural resource management and conservation
- Supporting sustainable agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture practices
- Addressing the cause of climate change by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases
- Strengthening ecosystems and communities affected by climate change
- Supporting education initiatives that promote behavior that protects the environment
- Advocating for sustainable consumption to build an economy that uses resources more efficiently
- Addressing environmental justice issues and public health concerns



The focus coincides with Beverly's view of Keep Jonesboro Beautiful, which she happens to chair. Beverly introduced three men whose jobs support her passion to protect and preserve the environment.



Danny Kapales, Director of Parks and Recreation, spoke of a new master park plan. Kapales wants every neighborhood to have a green space.

Scott Roper, Director of Code Enforcement, said that one of his duties involves the removal of condemned

houses. Liens are filed against property owners of these houses. Roper's department also places dumpsters in neighborhoods on the first of every month so that citizens can throw away old appliances, furniture, and items too large for them to dispose of properly.



James Gray of the Greater Business Commission of the Chamber of Commerce asked what businesses can do about disposing of trash.



Rotarian **Mickey Latour**, a newcomer to Jonesboro, is head of the College of Agriculture at A-State. He said that students are more concerned about the environment and that water was at the top of their list.

All in all, the group gave an informative program. Beverly ended the program by encouraging everyone to be an advocate to keep our home clean, green, and beautiful.



Report Card -- April 30, 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 - 43
Active Members - 40
Friends of Rotary - 0
Honorary members - 0
Proposed - 0
Guests - 3 [Read More](#)