

The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
July 15, 2024
Volume 107, Issue 03
Rotary Club of Jonesboro
P.O. Box 654
Jonesboro, AR 72403
Chartered August 1, 1919

Club Leaders



Jennifer Hannah
President



Chad Chadwick
President-Elect



Alicia Dyer / Benson
Secretary



Jeremy Todd Watson
Treasurer

Events

July 16th

Jonesboro Club Meeting July 16, 2024- Chad Chadwick

July 23rd

Jonesboro Club Meeting July 23, 2024- Jagriti Chouhan, FOA

July 30th

Jonesboro Club Meeting July 30, 2024- Jim Bryant, Pinnacle II

Birthdays



Kathleen Doty Pruitt
July 21st



Bonnie Watkins May
August 5th

This Week's Program -- July 16, 2024

Serving our Community

Chad Chadwick's day job is Vice President/Branch Manager for Unico Bank. When he is not at the bank, you will see him out in the community, leading and facilitating various community service projects.

Chad is the current Rotary Club of Jonesboro President-nominee and the Club Service Chair. As the Club Service Chair, he coordinates monthly service projects for the club. These include the club's annual peanut butter drive, picking up trash along a given intersection in Jonesboro, drug take-back day, filling boxes at the Food Bank, and many others.

Chad will share with us some plans for this year and how we can all get involved.



New Member



Mike Payson was introduced to our club as a new member. Already a Rotarian, he recently transferred from Arizona.

Welcome, Mike!

Good News â€" July 9, 2024

Jeremy Colton carried the mic for Good News. Notes taken by **Shaila Creekmore**

Hatton Weeks' son earns his college degree next week and has secured a job.

Brock Wooldrige will be on a beach vacation with his family next week.

Last Week's Program -- July 9, 2024

By Shaila C Creekmore

Ritter Communications Focuses on Community

Ritter Communications CEO Heath Simpson spoke on Tuesday about the company's commitment to being a part of and working with the community with their slogan, Right by You, being their standard for business and community involvement. Started in 1906 in Marked Tree as Ritter Telephone, the company moved its headquarters to Jonesboro 15 years ago and began focusing on providing telecommunications businesses in rural communities.



The company's headquarters, located off Windover, is a state-of-the-art building and is LEAD certified, winning awards for environmental design. The company employs more than 200 employees in Jonesboro. Ritter was named the Best Place to Work in Arkansas three-years running and was also Business of the Year in 2022 by Arkansas Business.

In addition to telephone service, the company expanded to broadband internet, specializing in rural communities and is the number one broadband supplier to schools in Arkansas. Ritter Communications, under the name RightFiber, is the top recipient of broadband grants in Arkansas with more than \$70 million in Arkansas as well as Tennessee. With this expansion came home internet in the communities it served. To date, the company is in 166 communities and plans are underway now to expand into more surrounding states.

In 2022, the city of Jonesboro announced its partnership with Ritter Communications to become the city's official broadband partner and more than \$60 million was invested to build a fiber network across the city. A customer service store, RightFiber, was opened on Southwest Drive earlier this year.

In an effort to support the Jonesboro community, Heath said the company has been a sponsor of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro Unlimited, the Jonesboro Barbecue Festival, Miracle League Park, and has given large donations to St. Bernards Memory Care and the NEA Center for Good Grief. During the holidays, Ritter installs the large Christmas Tree downtown.

Report Card -- July 9th, 2024

By Alicia Dyer / Benson

Total Members = 107
Active=67
Active-Modern=3
Active-Partner=3
Active-R85=15
Active-Service=17
Staff Position=2

Active-Service: 7
Active-Modern: 1
Active-R85: 6
Active: 29
Guest: 2 [Read More](#)