

The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150
July 22, 2024
Volume 107, Issue 04
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 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



Beverly Bartels
August 18th

This Week's Program -- July 23, 2024

The Transformative Work of the Foundation of Arts

Since 1986, The Foundation of Arts for NE Arkansas has been serving Jonesboro and the surrounding area as the premiere arts organization providing live entertainment in theater, music, and dance as well as educational opportunities in the arts. The organization was formed out of an alliance of three groups: The Jonesboro Fine Arts Council, The Northeast Arkansas Symphony, and The Friends of the Forum. Ever since, the FOA has operated its programming out of the Forum Theater, the historic movie house built in 1926 previously known as *The Strand*. The building was sold to the City of Jonesboro and underwent a renovation in the mid-1970s to become a modern performance venue.



Since that time, thousands of local and touring artists have graced The Forum's stage. In 2001, the Northeast Arkansas Symphony relocated to beautiful Riceland Hall in the Fowler Center on the campus of Arkansas State University, while the FOA remained downtown at the Forum to continue providing quality programming in the arts. In addition to hosting and producing entertainment for and by the community, the FOA developed its education wing and continues to operate year-round classes out of a second location on Main Street around the corner from The Forum Theater known as The Arts Center.

To this day, the Foundation of Arts is committed to its founders' vision of improving the quality of life in our community through the arts. The organization has developed this mission further by keeping the arts accessible to all and by emphasizing the individual's journey and development into an artist. The FOA's numerous outreach programs and its unique values continue to provide tremendous value to the community.

Jagriti Chouhan is the Development Director for the FOA. She joined the staff after completing her MBA at Arkansas State. She grew up in India and came to Jonesboro in 2022 for graduate school, but quickly learned this was the place for her to remain.

Come hear her talk about how the FOA continues to transform the arts.

Good News -- July 16, 2024

Gary Higgins carried the mic for Good News.

PE Chad Chadwick promised to keep today's meeting short and sweet.

DG Brian Rega has been away on District Governor business. He was glad to be home.

Wes Eddington was thankful to be back at Rotary.

Norman Stafford said there was a shooting today but luckily no one was hurt.

John Deacon was glad no one harassed him about wearing shorts to the meeting. He said today's meeting about last year's service was due to **Chad Chadwick**. (*Applause*)

Dana Kennedy was thankful for air conditioning.

Norman Stafford was also impressed by **Chad Chadwick's** hard work as Service Chair last year.

Last Week's Program -- July 16, 2024

Serving Our Community

This week's program was a review of all the service projects our club was involved in last year. **PE Chad Chadwick** served as Service Chair last year and commented on the impact these projects had made on the community.

The extensive list included the following:

- Collecting diapers and donating them to Mama to Mama. 708 diapers were collected.
- Packing boxes at the Food Bank of NEA.
- Working as elves at Christmas at the Park.
- Collecting funds for ALS to honor past Rotary president Phillip Jackson. We also participated in the ALS walk.
- Helping with Hero's Day at the Farmer's Market at A-State. SERVPRO was the sponsor of the event and Rotary served the meal.
- Holding a Christmas Party for children and grandchildren and neighbor's children of Rotary members. Santa was present and the children played games.
- Donating money to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- Collecting peanut butter to donate to ASU's Food Pantry for students. Over 200 jars were donated.
- Collecting blankets and food for the NEA Humane Society.
- Picking up trash at Craighead Forest's Rotary Playground.
- Picking up trust at Interstate 555 to beautify Jonesboro for visitors during the eclipse.
- Collecting hygiene products for the Women's Crisis Center.
- Donating money to buy eyeglasses for children in El Salvador.
- Organizing Shop with a Cop.
- Collecting backpacks for children at the Kindergarten Center.
- Participating in Drug Take-Back Day.
- Buying and donating books for pre-schoolers.
- Collecting food for backpacks for Westside's Summer Program.
- Collecting money for the Cancer Center at St. Bernards.



There were 13 offsite events and 7 onsite events. Members were asked to donate money 7 times and collect unkind items 9 times. Our club had the most volunteers at the Shrimp Boil Fundraiser and the Food Bank of NEA.

Report Card - July 16, 2024

By Alicia Dyer / Benson

Total Members = 107

Active=67

Active-Modem=3

Active-Partner=3

Active-R85=15

Active-Service=17

Staff Position=2

Total Attendance - 34

Active-Service: 2

Active-R85: 2

Active: 28

Active-Partner: 1

Guest: 1 [Read More](#)