

## The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
July 29, 2024  
Volume 107, Issue 05  
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 30th  
Jonesboro Club Meeting July 30, 2024- Jim Bryant, Pinnacle II

August 6th  
Jonesboro Club Meeting August 6, 2024- Lee Wells, Director, JET

August 13th  
Jonesboro Club Meeting August 13, 2024- Lauren Willette

### Birthdays



Bonnie Watkins May  
August 5th



Beverly Bartels  
August 18th

Jeffrey T. Griffin  
August 24th

## This Week's Program -- July 30, 2024

### ***Good Tidings Christmas Event***

When the Jonesboro Jaycees disbanded after 70 years of service to the community, they ensured their projects would keep helping the Northeast Arkansas community. Nettleton Baptist Church took over the Goodfellows and Christmas For Kids projects. The project, now called the Good Tidings Christmas Event, helps feed Northeast Arkansas families around the holiday season.

Jim Bryant is a native of Jonesboro. Jim is working with Nettleton Baptist Church's Good Tidings Christmas Event and will share with our club how we can be a part of helping 350-400 families in Northeast Arkansas have a wonderful Christmas.

Come hear Jim Bryant tell how you can help serve families in need during the Christmas season.



### Upcoming Service Projects

#### ***August -- High School Backpacks***

We will start collecting backpacks for Nettleton High School. These will need to be large capacity backpacks for 9-12 grade students. Counselor Amanda Waln said the school office runs out of backpacks for students after the first week of school, and they need them throughout the school year.

#### ***September -- First Responder's Hero Day and ALS Walk***

On September 9, we will be helping with ServPro's NEA First Responder's Hero Day. Sign up's will be held in August.

We will also participate in the ALS walk once again this year. It will be held Saturday, Sept. 14 beginning on the Arkansas State University Student Union Lawn. Please sign up through our team page on the ALS site:

<http://web.alsa.org/goto/RotaryClubofJonesboro>

### Vocational Corner



#### ***About Mike Payson***

**Mike Payson** was born and raised on the banks of the Mississippi River in the Clinton, Iowa, area. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. While teaching school in the spring of 1968, he received his draft notice.

After two years in the Army, one year in Viet Nam, he returned to grad school at Northern Iowa with the ultimate intention of teaching history at a community college or a small four-year school. He had a wife and daughter to support and ran out of money to finish his last three hours and written finals.

Trying to get back on his feet financially, he took what he thought would be a temporary job in retail jewelry and then return to finish grad school. The "temporary job" lasted 44 years. Most of his career was spent in management and multi-store supervision. It took him from Iowa to Kansas City to Little Rock, Cincinnati, Las Vegas, Seattle, the Tri-Cities, Portland, Spokane, Minneapolis, Madison, Minneapolis, and back to Spokane for retirement. It took him three tries to get retirement right.

After six years in "retirement" in Spokane, and some miserable winters, he and his wife relocated in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Due to some health issues for his wife, they relocated to Jonesboro in April 2024.

Mike joined Rotary in 1997 and became a Rotarian in 1999. (He would love to share that story at some point.) Over the last 27 years, he has belonged to seven different clubs. He has served as a club president in back-to-back terms, an assistant governor, Community Service Director for four clubs and chaired a number of fundraisers.

He and his wife, Sharon, have been married since 1987. (Another interesting story.) They share five daughters (none together), 13 grandkids, and 4 great-grandkids.

He looks forward to continuing his Rotary journey with us and getting to know each of us better.

## Good News -- July 23, 2024

**Mike Payson** carried the mic for Good News.

**Claudia Shannon** sits on the Fine Arts board. Jay and Stephanie told her they hoped they "looked as good as [she] when they got old."

**Wes Eddington** said he really enjoyed today's Rotary lunch.

**Gregory Hansen** returned from Fayetteville where he assisted with a teachers' professional development program sponsored by Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts. He also enjoyed a visit to Crystal Bridges Art Museum and a Northwest Arkansas National baseball game, which Arkansas won 7-2.

**Norman Stafford** recently babysat with children under 12, and he said he would never do it again.

## Last Week's Program -- July 23, 2024

### *The Transformative Work of the Foundation of Arts*

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.



In May of this year, Jagriti Chouhan became the Development Director. She spoke briefly and said that money was not an issue for participation in the Foundation of Arts. About 45 percent of those enrolled in classes receive scholarships.

Participants may do some kind of work at the FOA in the tuition assistance program.



She then turned the program over to Stephanie Epps, Program Chair. Stephanie. She emphasized that the FOA was available to all ages. They allow participants to explore their talents. Community people help teach classes. The FOA has over 500 volunteers.

The Foundation provides classes year-round. It offers auditioning for shows, working backstage, serving as ushers, joining committees, and helping with special projects. The FOA is committed to keeping a revolving door of opportunities so that we may continue to inspire our growing community with the arts.

## Report Card -- July 23, 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: 8

Active-Modern: 2

Active-R85: 5

Active: 21

Active-Partner: 1

Guest: 3 [Read More](#)