

Rotary



Club of West Little Rock

Rotary Club of West Little Rock

Meets at St. Vincent Infirmary
in the Terrace Room
[Two St. Vincent Circle](#)
[Little Rock, AR 72205](#)
Meetings: Wednesday at 12:00
PM

Club 2535, District 6150
www.westlittlerockrotary.org

Chartered November 18, 1958

Club Leaders



[Roy Patterson Smith](#)
President



[Ali Miller](#)
President-Elect



[William C. Temple](#)
Secretary



[Tammy Kay Miller](#)
Treasurer



[Pamela Jean Estes](#)
President-Nominee



[Shannon Gwinn](#)
Bulletin Editor



[Nancy Leonhardt](#)
Public Image Chair
Club Executive
Secretary
Webmaster



[Elizabeth Meyer](#)
Service Projects
Chair

[Inez Reeder](#)
Membership Chair

This Week's Program November 30, 2022



[Maria Touchstone](#), Recruitment and Retention Program Advisor
Arkansas Department of Education

Educator and advocate for education for people from poverty.

María Guadalupe Almazan-Touchstone was born in Monterrey, Mexico and arrived in Houston at the age of 6, not speaking a word of English. She has been an educator for more than 30 years. María was a Second Language (ESL) specialist for the

North Little Rock School District, and Administrator, being the first Latina appointed to such a high position in the district. She attended the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas A & I Universities in Kingsville and Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. She graduated with a BA in history and foreign languages and also earned her teaching license in Texas and Arkansas.

In addition, due to the demands of her work as a teacher, she also plays a role as a social worker, since she not only helps Latino families with their language problems, but also in many other situations that arise. She has still been studying at UCA to obtain her master's degree in education.

She was the founder and executive director of *Seis Puentes* Education and Resource Center, *North Little Rock*, a nonprofit on a mission to build a bridge between Hispanic communities and general life in Arkansas through education, information, and resources.

María has received several distinctions, too long to enumerate. She was appointed by Governor Huckabee to the Advisory Council for the Recruitment of Teachers of Ethnic Minorities. During President George W. Bush's first visit to the North Little Rock district, she was chosen to serve on the education panel that met with the president and spoke for a few minutes with him. FBI Little Rock Headquarters recognized her as a recipient of the 2017 Director's Community Leadership Award.

In the case of teachers of Latino origin, María thinks that they are of great importance in education in Arkansas, because they have better interaction with Latino students, since by understanding the way of thinking and acting of these students, they have an easier time teaching them. María believes that ESL classes are very effective, but could be even more effective if there were a uniform program of ESL instruction throughout Arkansas, making it possible for Latinos to improve their lives very positively by being able to communicate easily in English, being able to get a better education reaching higher degrees, get better jobs, and fully incorporate into general society. She also thinks that newly arrived immigrants must first be taught very fundamental English, without too many grammatical rules that generally scare many students.

Mark Your Calendars

November 30th - Maria Touchstone, Arkansas Department of Education

December 7th - Club Assembly

December 14th - TBA

December 15th - Holiday Party



Jerry C. Wilson
Rotary Foundation
Chair



Janet Paige White
Club Programs
Chair



Gina Newman
iPast President

Birthdays



Janet Paige White
November 17th



Cecelia Blasier
November 21st



Vince Wren
November 22nd

Years of Service

Joshua Teal
11-14-2018
4 Years

Roy Patterson Smith
11-14-2018
4 Years

Vanessa L. Bostick
11-15-2021
1 Year

Douglas K Norton
11-09-2022
0 Years

Community Service Corner

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONNECTION SAVE THE DATE

ROTARIANS TO ADOPT ANGEL TREE KIDS

We have selected 6 children from the Angel Tree this year! We will need monetary donations to help purchase gifts for all children AND we will need volunteers to purchase the gifts and return to the Salvation Army Angel Tree Booth at Park Plaza Mall by Friday, December 9th. Please contact Elizabeth Meyer to donate and/or volunteer to shop! Email Elizabeth.meyer@bankencore.com or ph. 501-297-4623.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE BOOTH

WLR Rotarians will be manning the Salvation Army Angel Tree booth at Park Plaza Mall on Friday, December 9th from 10:00am – 6:00pm.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered! We have all shifts covered!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING DATE SET

Rotarians will be "Ring the Bell for the red kettle" on Saturday, December 10th at Kroger on Highway 10 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered! **We need one more volunteer for the noon-2:00pm shift!**

A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the upcoming meetings or you may email Elizabeth.meyer@bankencore.com to volunteer.

I LIKE ME BOOKS AT TERRY ELEMENTARY

On Friday, December 16th – we will be reading to the kindergarten classrooms and presenting each child with a "I LIKE ME" book. We will need a total of 8 volunteers and will meet in the lobby at Terry Elementary at 8:15am. The address is 10800 Mara Lynn Dr. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the upcoming meetings or you may email Elizabeth.meyer@bankencore.com to volunteer.

UA LITTLE ROCK FOOD PANTRY

The UA Little Rock Food Pantry needs our help stocking the shelves for students! We will focus on one item each month.

December – Please bring boxed Mac N Cheese.

January – Please bring canned soup.



Save the Date - Holiday Party



Thursday, December 15th

Home of Inez Reeder

More details to come!

Rotary Medical Supply Network

Rotarian Gary Speed dropped off three wheelchairs on Friday at the Rotary Medical Supply Network Inc. in Tulsa. This equipment was donated to WLR Rotary Club by a local hospital for use in Rotary service. These wheelchairs will be shipped to a foreign country as part of Rotary's international service. If any club members would like to get involved with MSNI and help package and load foreign shipments, contact Gary Speed.



Reasons to Join Rotary



Some reasons for joining Rotary:

#10. **Assistance when Traveling:** Because there are Rotary clubs everywhere, many a Rotarian in need of a doctor, lawyer, hotel, dentist, advice, etc., while traveling has found assistance through Rotary

#9. **Citizenship in the World:** Every Rotarian wears a pin that says "Rotary International". There are a few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary club. Every Rotarian is welcome - even encouraged - to attend any of the 33,000 clubs in over 200 nations and geographical regions. This means instant friends in both one's own community and in the world community.

WHO will YOU invite to JOIN us??

Four-Way Test

The Four Way Test of the things we think, say, or do...

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?