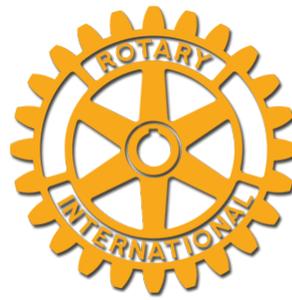


Rotary

District 6150



Account Leaders



James Arbuckle Sr.
District Governor



David F. Menz
DG-Elect



Sydney O'Quin
Gilbert DG-Nominee



Brian Rega
DG - Nominee Designate



Lisa K. Golden
District Administrator



Michelle Blasengame
Assistant Governor



Mark A. Brasfield
Assistant Governor



Donna Gail Cole
Assistant Governor



Rena Kelley
Assistant Governor



Jai Lambert
Assistant Governor



Kelly Blankenship Lewis
Assistant Governor

James Sidney Lowrance

From the Governor

By James Arbuckle Sr.



Welcome to March! Hopefully the cold weather is behind us and spring is on the way. Similarly, the dark days of COVID are behind us and the warmth of being able to gather together in person (and see each other's faces) are ahead of us. In February I had the privilege of traveling to Blytheville for their 100-year celebration. What a great event! I was inspired by the testimonies of past presidents and their experiences with the 'family' of Rotary.

We're now in the ninth month of our Rotary year with four months to go. Wow! We have a number of events coming up in the next few months. Our Presidents-Elect will be traveling to Springdale for training at MAPETS Conference. Our District conference is coming the end of April.

The Strength of Motherhood

Little did I know that after speaking on the topic of peace and conflict last month we would come face to face with a real-life example of it in the form of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. If you're like me, you've been glued to the news channels watching the events that have transpired over the past few weeks. And if you're like me, you've felt the desperation of people who are terrified at the prospect of protecting their lives and the lives of their families... and it makes you mad and frustrated that you can do little to help. Amidst this turmoil come the stories that inspire us. For example, consider Olena Gnes, a mother of three, who under normal circumstances, is a tour guide in Kyiv. She has grabbed the hearts of many westerners with her viral YouTube (What is Ukraine) testimony of what life is now like sheltering in a makeshift bomb shelter with kids and baby in tow, separated from her journalist husband, who is now in the Ukrainian army. As hundreds of thousands of women and children have made their way to some of the border countries, she has remained steadfast in her determination to stay and in her passion for Ukrainians and their need for help. Can you imagine having to explain to your young children how to lie down and protect yourselves in case of a bomb? I was both saddened and encouraged by her bravery. Many Ukrainian women and mothers – both civilian and military – have joined in this fight to protect their children, their loved ones, and their country.



As I pondered Olena's story, the stories of women who stayed to fight, and the stories of those who left everything to seek safety, I was encouraged by the humanitarian efforts of people from all over Europe who have stepped up to help care for these women and their children, offering their homes and much more. These efforts bring into sharp relief the stories of those mothers and children in need all around the world with no available support network. This is where Rotary's focus on Maternal and Children Care comes into play. Consider these statistics from Rotary International.



6.3 million children under the age of five die each year from diseases, malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. 222 million women who would prefer to delay or avoid childbearing lack access to safe and effective contraception. Women in sub-Saharan Africa face a 1 in 39 lifetime risk of dying of pregnancy- or childbirth-related complications.

You may, like me, be tempted once again to feel powerless to help, but you can. Your donations to the Rotary Foundation provide the funding for much-needed immunizations, making healthcare and educational opportunities available to mothers, supporting healthcare professionals, and providing clean water. Haiti has the highest maternal and infant mortality rate of any country in the western hemisphere. [Rotary provided a fully equipped medical Jeep](#) to volunteers and midwives to reach mothers and children in remote areas.



Assistant Governor



Darin McCollum
Assistant Governor



Sonya Schmidt
Murphy
Assistant Governor



Michelle Karin
Oglesby
Assistant Governor



Adam Robert Sartin
Assistant Governor



George Matthew Buie
District Membership Chair



Charles C. Harris
District Visioning Chair



John F. Carter
District Foundation Chair



Douglas J. Shackelford
District Public Image Chair

Getting back to Olena, I admire her courage and determination. Please continue to keep the Ukrainian people in your prayers. RI has given us an opportunity to give to the Rotary Foundation (below in newsletter), please consider giving.

March Admin Notes

By Lisa K. Golden



Presidents - Club Recognition deadline NOW March 15

Update your calendar... The deadline for club recognition criteria has been extended to March 15. This means the Governors' Banner & Club of the Year spreadsheets must be emailed to DG James Arbuckle by March 15. You can find this spreadsheet

[HERE](#). Work with your Assistant Governor to make sure everything is completed and turned in on time.

Presidents-Elect - Make Plans to attend Mid-America PETS

Congratulations! You have the honor of serving your Rotary Club during 2022-2023 as President.

The purpose of the Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) is to help you to be a club president who has the necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation to lead an effective club. Attendance at PETS is now required by Rotary International for all presidents-elect in order to serve as president of your Rotary club.

REGISTER NOW for 2022 Mid-America PETS

Find out more info regarding PETS & lodging info at midamericapets.org. Note your registration has already been paid by your club. **You will incur a \$25 late fee after Feb. 23.**

District Conference Save the Date

By Lisa K. Golden



This year's District Conference will be held in person on April 29 - 30 at the Four Points by Sheraton Midtown in Little Rock. Watch your email for more information.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES
WITH GRATITUDE

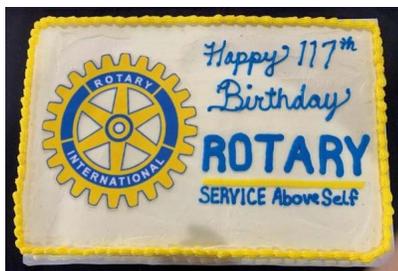
SAVE THE DATE

April 29-30, 2022
Little Rock, AR

Four Points by Sheraton Midtown

Helena Rotary Club holds Birthday Celebration for Rotary's 117th

By Mary Ann Hargraves



The Helena Rotary Club had a fantastic birthday party on February 23 celebrating RI's 117th Birthday!!

The club donated over 117 items to the Angels of Grace, which is a home for abused women and children. After taking these individuals in, Angels of Grace works with each to empower them to obtain a job, education, etc. to better their lives.

Before the director of Angels of Grace, Rosie Burton, presented her program, a passage

from RI President Shekhar Mehta, talking about his mission

to empower women and children through Rotary projects was read. Rosie was dressed in all purple because that is the color that represents domestic violence. Helena Mayor Kevin Smith, who is an Honorary Rotarian of the club, was in attendance. A fun time of fellowship and singing was had by all!!



Sherwood Rotary Promotes Healthy Smiles

By Michelle Karin Oglesby



February was National Children's Dental Health Month, and the Rotary Club of Sherwood teamed up with local dentist, Dr. Jeff Powell, to provide dental education for children around central Arkansas.

Rotary's Healthy Smiles project started in 2007 under the leadership of then District Governor Judy Sims. As a retired dental hygienist, Sims knew the importance of oral health in children and wanted to apply Rotary's mission of service to addressing this. At first, the project was just to service public schools in Sherwood, but the project has grown considerably over the years to include schools in Jacksonville, North Little Rock and two special schools in Little Rock.

Part of their weekly program involves passing a can around to the membership in a tradition called "Make a Change with Your Change." Rotarians donate spare change and this money is used to fund projects like this in the community. Through a matching grant with Rotary District 6150, the Sherwood club provided more than 1,500 toothbrushes for the students.



ShelterBox responds to the Ukraine Crisis

By Lisa K. Golden



In recent days, hundreds of homes have been damaged or destroyed in Ukraine. Innocent civilians are being killed, families and lives are being torn apart. The UN is reporting hundreds of thousands of people on the move inside the country or trying to leave. They are predicting as many as 12 million people may need humanitarian assistance, with 6.7 million people projected to be internally displaced within Ukraine and that up to 4 million refugees may be seen as a result of this crisis and more than 660,000 people are reported to have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries [3/1 11am GMT].

ShelterBox is responding to the Ukraine crisis and sending a team to eastern Europe. We are working to understand the type of emergency shelter people fleeing Ukraine need, if our aid will be suitable, and which locations we might be able to work in. We are coordinating with local authorities, Rotary, and other aid organizations to make sure as many people as possible will receive the help they need.

For information and updates, visit <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/the-ukraine-crisis-explained/>



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES