

Rotary

District 6150



Account Leaders



David F. Menz
District Governor



Sydney O'Quin Gilbert
DG-Elect



Brian Rega
DG-Nominee



Lisa K. Golden
District Administrator



Duane H Barnes
Assistant Governor



Michelle Blasengame
Assistant Governor



George Matthew Bue
Assistant Governor



King Casbeer
Assistant Governor



Donna Gail Cole
Assistant Governor



Sally Sullivan Cooke
Assistant Governor



James K. Gibbs
Assistant Governor



Rena Kelley
Assistant Governor

Kelly Blankenship
Lewis

From the Governor

By David F. Menz on Friday, May 5, 2023



Fellow Rotarians,

Districts 6150, 6800, and 6820 had an exceptional district conference April 21st to the 24th. The highlight was the presence of Stephanie Urchick, who will be the Rotary International president in Rotary Year 2024-2025. She made two excellent presentations, headed two sessions on the Rotary Foundation, and was a very energetic participant on the dance floor. As a bonus to me, she is from western Pennsylvania, and she never missed a question about the Steelers, Pirates, or Penguins. She noted repeatedly that this was the only district conference she is attending this year. How did she pick us? That's a story for another day.

Clubs of the year are as follows;

Small--Quad Cities
Mid-size--Sherwood
Large--Helena
Extra Large--Jonesboro

Please note that only 56% of the District's thirty-six clubs (20) submitted COTY information. I'm certain Sydney, Brian and Michelle will encourage greater participation in the future.

There was an award for best continuous club civic project, now entering its 25th year. North Little Rock Rotary has been working with the North Little Rock School District on a literacy project for all those years.

President of the year is Denver Peacock of the Little Rock Rotary Club.

Finally, District 6150 Rotarian of the Year is the Honorable Shawn Johnson of the Little Rock Metro Club.

District 6150 has contributed \$15,000 to the Wynne Rotary Club for tornado relief. I have noted that several clubs immediately raised funds. Stuttgart jumped in immediately, as did Little Rock Rotary.

On the Lighter Side

What do you get if you divide the circumference of your jack-o'-lantern by its diameter?
Pumpkin pi.

During a state visit to Great Britain, President Ronald Reagan purportedly went horseback riding with Queen Elizabeth. At one point, one of the horses passed gas quite loudly. The queen apologized, saying, "There are some things even royalty can't control." Reagan replied, "I'm glad you told me, or I would have thought it was the horse."

A man walked into his backyard one morning and found a gorilla in a tree. He called a gorilla-removal service, and soon a serviceman arrived with a stick, a Chihuahua, a pair of handcuffs and a shotgun. "Now listen carefully," he told the homeowner. "I'm going to climb the tree and poke the gorilla with this stick until he falls to the ground. The trained Chihuahua will then go for his, uh, sensitive area, and when the gorilla instinctively crosses his hands in front to protect himself, you slap on the handcuffs." "Got it," the homeowner replied. "But what's the shotgun for?" "If I fall out of the tree before the gorilla," the man said, "shoot the Chihuahua."

During a game of Scrabble, my aunt decided to pass. "I simply can't move my vowels," she complained. My uncle replied, "Does that mean you're consonated?"

District Golf Outing set for May

By David F. Menz on Thursday, April 6, 2023



Assistant Governor



T Lucas Minton
Assistant Governor



Adam Robert Sartin
Assistant Governor



Charles C. Harris
District Visioning
Chair



Michelle Karin
Oglesby
District Training Chair

The date is Friday, May 19th, at the Ridges of Village Creek on Highway 284 north of Wynne. King Casbeer is doing his usual wonderful job planning the tournament. This year will be the first year the north nine holes will be used. Also, a traveling trophy will be awarded this year to the winning club. For club of the year, ten points are awarded to each club that sends a team. Send two or three teams and your club earns twenty or thirty points. Bring players who are not Rotarians and encourage them to join your club. I'm bringing my brother-in-law because my sister wants him out of the house. And this year, all monies earned in excess of expenses will be donated to the Wynne Rotary Club for tornado relief.

Registration is open. The 18-hole 4-person scramble format tournament will begin at 10 am. Lunch is included with your \$500 team entry fee. Hole and drink cart sponsorships are available. See the attached flyer for details.

Register your team or sponsorship through DACdb.

[Register NOW](#) for **District 6150 Golf Tournament**



“Taking Care of Business” at the District Conference 2023

By Shawn J. Johnson



Joining with Districts 6800 and 6820, our District 6150 enjoyed a great conference at the home of Elvis in Memphis on April 20-22, 2023. Approximately 30 Rotarians from our district attended. Participants arrived on Thursday, which gavelled in with the Past District Governors Dinner. On Friday morning, District Governors David Menz, Nathan Lubin, and Mark DiBiase extended an official welcome, and the day continued with break-out sessions on Rotaract, Membership, and Braver Angels.

On Friday evening, Rotary International President Nominee Stephanie Urchick (2024-25) joined the conference for a keynote address in which she inspired attendees with the message of RI President Jennifer Jones. She also shared her Rotary journey—a journey that reflects service at every turn. Stephanie has served Rotary projects in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, and Ukraine. She will serve us well as RI President. Following Stephanie's remarks, we enjoyed dancing to a great Memphis band and some Elvis-impersonating too.



Saturday included break-out sessions on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library—a project identified by District Governor Elect Sydney Gilbert for next year's focus—the Sultana Museum in Marion by Judge John Fogleman, A panel from Arkansas State University's Women's Leadership Center discussed how they are empowering and inspiring women, Little Rock's 9th Street Corridor by Mosaic Templars Historian Brian Rodgers, and a stirring presentation by filmmaker Jeff Dailey on his documentary, "The Vows," which is about Memphis's incredible BBQ joint called "The Rendezvous."



In all, the conference was substantive and motivational. As Rotarians, we are called to serve but to have a little fun too. District Conference 2023 was a celebration that accomplished both tasks.

A special thanks is owed to Lisa Golden for coordinating registration and DacDB, and to District Governors David Menz, Mark DiBiase (District 6820 – Mississippi), and Nathan Lubin (District 6800 – Memphis) for their dedication to this event. It wouldn't have happened without them.

See you next year!



May is Youth Services Month

Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education and learn the value of service. Does your club participate in these Rotary Youth Programs - Interact, RYLA, Youth Exchange and New Generations Service Exchange?

Save The Date

SAVE THE DATE

June 30

DISTRICT GOVERNOR INDUCTION OF
SYDNEY O'QUIN GILBERT

JUNE 30, 2023

5PM COCKTAIL HOUR
HOSTED BY ROTARY CLUB OF
LITTLE ROCK AFTERHOURS

6PM DINNER & PROGRAM

CHENAL COUNTRY CLUB
10 CHENAL CLUB BLVD.
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72223

Rotary District 6150
Rotary Club of Little Rock Afterhours

ROTARY CLUB OF OSCEOLA HOSTS USED SHOE DRIVE TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER TO IMPOVERISHED NATIONS

By Tyler Dunegan

The Rotary Club of Osceola is helping to provide safe water to people around the world by hosting a shoe drive from April 1 to May 31. Shoes of any size and condition can be dropped off. The shoes will be donated to WaterStep, a nonprofit organization with a 4-star 100% rating from Charity Navigator, that uses training and technology to create long-lasting water solutions for developing countries.

Once the shoes are collected and donated to WaterStep, they are sold to an exporter. The funds raised from the sale of the shoes go to WaterStep's work of providing safe water solutions to people in third world communities and disaster-hit areas. The shoes are then repurposed and sold in marketplaces providing affordable footwear for those in need. WaterStep collects on average 30,000 pounds of shoes each month, so that's 30,000 pounds of waste that is kept from going into landfills.

WaterStep, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, is a U.S.-based 501(c) (3) organization that works to fight the global water crisis by addressing the root causes of waterborne illness.

More than 780 million people in the world lack access to safe drinking water; a child dies every 30 seconds from waterborne illness. WaterStep works to develop and implement sustainable solutions to the global water crisis by equipping people around the world with the tools, technology and training to provide safe water in their own communities. Since 2001, WaterStep has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in almost two dozen countries, including, Haiti, Kenya, India, Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic, The Philippines, Pakistan, and Costa Rica.



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**