

# Rotary

## District 6150



### Account Leaders



Sydney O'Quin Gilbert  
District Governor



Brian Rega  
DG-Elect



Michelle Karin Oglesby  
DG-Nominee



Lisa K. Golden  
District Administrator



Duane H Barnes  
Assistant Governor



Michelle Blasengame  
Assistant Governor



Will Branch  
Assistant Governor



King Casbeer  
Assistant Governor



Donna Gail Cole  
Assistant Governor



Sally Sullivan Cooke  
Assistant Governor



Anthony D. Ester  
Assistant Governor



Mary Ann Hargraves  
Assistant Governor

### From the Governor



Why are you in Rotary? I'd love to hear your why. Please reply to this e-newsletter and tell me your story.

Telling the Rotary story is how we grow our membership. When I ask folks how they came to Rotary, many tell me, "I was asked". I sought Rotary out to meet new people who valued serving their community. My father is a Rotarian, so he got me in touch with someone (Steve Maxwell) who helped me find a Rotary Club that fit me. I quickly got involved with my club's service projects and was hooked.

August is Membership and New Club Development Month. Though this is the month we feature Membership, recruitment and retention is a focus all year round. With additional members, we have more hands to do the good work we do in our communities. With more members, we contribute more funds to the Rotary Foundation. In three years, half of those donations come back to our clubs in the form of District Grants. Those clubs then use the funds to do more projects for their community. Our members are the life blood of our organization.

So, who do you know that could serve with you? Have you asked them to come to Rotary? If your club doesn't fit a group of people who would be great Rotarians, consider starting a satellite or new Rotary club. Many times, clubs are afraid that a new club might take members from their club. Most likely, the new club members would never be a member of your club because it isn't a fit. I believe there are plenty of people who want to share their blessings. We just need to ask them and, if needed, create opportunities for service. I'm excited by the efforts of the clubs I've visited so far. Multiple clubs are exploring an evening social gathering to reach new people in their community. Multiple clubs are looking at where they can start a Rotaract club. This is exciting for those clubs and for Rotary!

### August Admin Notes

By Lisa K. Golden on Sunday, August 6, 2023

#### RI and District Dues

**Club Treasurers** - Each of you received an invoice for District Dues and MAPETS. There was an increase in the MAPETS fees from \$250 to \$275. Unfortunately, I did not know of the change at the time that I issued the club invoices. Please be on the lookout for a new invoice with this update. If you have already paid your dues, you will receive a separate invoice for the difference.

#### District Grants

**Presidents & Foundation Chairs** - Your foundation grant certification is due now. It is required for your club to be eligible for district grants. How does my club attain the grant certification? Just have two members attend the August Summer Seminar Foundation Session. District Grants are a tool for Rotary clubs to support humanitarian projects that benefit their community. The District can grant matching funds to support projects locally. Grant applications are due August 31. Check out the district website for more information on [District Grants](#).

### Summer Seminars

Thursday, July 6, 2023

### Summer Seminars Every Monday in August

Registration is NOW open for the Summer Seminars. Register by visiting the District Calendar or using the links below. Registration cost is \$15/person.

Choose from these dates & locations:

Monday, August 7 – **Jonesboro**. Registration Closed

Monday, August 14 – **Forrest City** [Register Here](#)

Monday, August 21 – **Heber Springs** [Register Here](#)

Monday, August 28 – **North Little Rock** [Register Here](#)



Charles C. Harris  
Assistant Governor



Rena Kelley  
Assistant Governor



Erin Michelle Kerley  
Mathews Assistant Governor



T Lucas Minton  
Assistant Governor



Kelly E. Rodgers  
Assistant Governor



Adam Robert Sartin  
District Training Chair

**Description:** The seminars at each location will have one General Session plus four Breakout Sessions.

**General Session** - Action Plan & Expanding Our Reach (Foundation Ambassadors & Gala)

**Breakouts:**

Foundation - Club Certification  
Membership  
Public Image & Service  
Next Generations

**Agenda:**

5:30 pm - Registration  
6:00 pm - Dinner & Program  
6:50 pm - Breakout Sessions  
7:55 pm - Regroup & Discussion  
8:10 pm - Adjourn

## President Gordon McNally's Priorities



### 2023-24 presidential initiatives

Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally is passionate about mental health and helping remove the stigma that sometimes prevents people from getting quality care. During this year, Gordon will focus on three initiatives that Create Hope in the World: prioritizing mental health, building peace through virtual exchanges, and empowering girls.

- **Prioritizing Mental Health.** Rotary has long been involved in mental health and wellness initiatives. Our culture of Service Above Self builds community and promotes acts of kindness, two proven methods to build and maintain mental wellness. Gordon is asking clubs and districts to expand on our culture of care by erasing the stigma associated with emotional well-being, raising awareness of mental health needs, and improving access to quality preventive care and interventions. He also encourages members to work with the [Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives](#), a global community with expertise in helping people improve their mental health. [Other action groups](#) specialize in related topics, such as addiction prevention. [Watch a message from Gordon about prioritizing mental health.](#)
- **Peacebuilding Through Virtual Exchanges.** Rotary has a long history of working for peace through personal connections. Inspired by what we've learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gordon is encouraging districts to incorporate virtual components into more programs, events, and activities — especially Rotary Youth

Exchanges and Rotary Friendship Exchanges. This will give people new ways to experience other cultures, make participation more accessible, and build understanding.

- **Empowering Girls.** Gordon is continuing this initiative that focuses on elevating the voices and unlocking the power of girls and women around the world. He is encouraging members to keep finding ways to improve girls' health, well-being, education, economic security, and self-determination. Empowered girls become empowered women who can change the world.

Learn more about Gordon's [presidential initiatives](#)

## BELRAG Releases Application for 2023 Literacy Awards

By Nancy Leonhardt on Friday, July 21, 2023

The Basic Education and Literacy Rotarian Action Group (BELRAG) has released the 2023 Literacy Awards application. Four projects will be selected to receive an award of \$500 each. [Read More](#)

**Celebrate Basic Education and Literacy this September**

Tell us about your club's education project to win one of four \$500 prizes. Submit information and photos of your project to:

## Community Service Week



Dear Rotary leader,

I am excited to announce that we are collaborating with Kiwanis International, Lions International, and Optimist International for our third annual Celebrate Community Week!

During the week of 11-17 September, we're encouraging Rotary and Rotaract clubs to partner with local Kiwanis, Lions, and Optimist clubs on a service project that will have a long-term impact in your community. (Use the club finder tools to locate [Kiwanis](#), [Lions](#), and [Optimist](#) clubs near you.) To get started, work with a local social service organization or with local government officials to learn what your community needs and how you can plan the most effective project.

Tell your neighbors — and us — about your joint service project by [sending out a news release](#), posting on social media with #CelebrateCommunity, and adding the project to [Rotary Showcase](#).

We can do more when we work together. Let's harness the collective power of our four organizations' 3.4 million members and Celebrate Community together.

Sincerely,  
John Hewko  
Rotary General Secretary and CEO

