



Club Leaders



Dustin L. Matthews
President



Randall Ponthie
President-Elect
Membership Chair



Edwin J. Caplan
Treasurer
Secretary



Robert A. Taylor Jr.
President-Nominee



Kristine Antoon
Sergeant-at-Arms



Maggie Burnaman Martin
Board Member
Community Service Chair



Crystal Y. Burch
Board Member



Charles Klein Charrier
Board Member
Vocational Service Chair



Robert H. Ginsburgh
Board Member
Registrar



Frank J. Jackson
Board Member



Lafe L. Jones
Board Member

President's Message



- Edward Everett Hale

Dustin Matthews
President, Rotary Club of Alexandria

I guess when you work in the financial services industry for a while you start to think about time in quarters so as I type this message I'm thinking how in the world are we already through the first quarter of 2021? But there is good news: **We will resume in-person meetings this month!** I know many of you have been waiting for this day and I assure you, I'm just as excited as you.

We couldn't have picked a better time to resume with the slate of programs we have lined up for April. Next week we will hear all about one of Central Louisiana's newest companies when Brad Fontenot joins us to talk about Avant Organics. The following week, Evelyn Jones and **Dr. Randall Dupont** will bring us up to speed on the LSUA Small Business Development Center. April 20th will mark the return of Rotary Career Day and finally, on April 27th we will find out the recipient of this year's Service Above Self award.

I can't wait to see you all on Tuesdays again but if you aren't quite ready to attend meetings just yet, remember that we will still broadcast on Zoom.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Meeting In Person Again

As of Tuesday, April 6, we will begin meeting in person at City Hall. President, **Dustin Matthews** polled our Club with almost half the Club responding (95%). Of those who responded 93% said they would be comfortable attending in person meetings if we started on April 6.

We will be working with City Hall, our caterer, John Ed Laborde and our Rotary Board to make sure that all safety protocols are in place.

You will need to enter from the front door (Third St. side) of City Hall. Please wear a mask. When you go to the check-in table, we hope to be able to scan you in instead of having you sign in. But, you will need to check in at the table with Ed, Judy and Bob. We will be using the entire room at City Hall so that we can space out enough to be safe.

We look forward to seeing you on April 6.

Rotary Grants Available to Local Non-Profits

Our Rotary Club is once again offering a total of \$20,000 in grants to local non-profits. Any 501(c)(3) organization domiciled in Rapides Parish can apply for a grant. The theme for the grant this year is the same as the new Rotary International Theme - Rotary Opens Opportunities. The **deadline to apply is April 13**.

Applications can be found at our Rotary website www.alexandriarotary.com under the Documents Tab. Once you have filled out the grant form completely, you can return it via postal mail to: Rotary, Attn. Grants Committee, PO Box 12306, Alexandria, LA 71315 or email to scott@thediamondgrill.com.

Service Above Self Award

At our April 27 meeting, we will announce the new recipient of our Rotary Club's Service Above Self Award. We hope you will all be present for this meeting. This award is given to someone in our community who has gone above and beyond their job to make a difference and serve people in our community. It is a great honor and we always look forward to this presentation. Thanks to **Lafe Jones** and his committee for their diligence with the



Scott Lucien Laliberte
Board Member

selection process and to all those members who made nominations.



Trish Leleux
Board Member

Karla Solomon Shares Her Personal Story

On March 16, we featured a special speaker at our weekly Rotary Zoom meeting - Karla Solomon, who lives in Texas now. Karla grew up in Louisiana in the Baton Rouge area and at a very young age was subjected to hard drugs and human trafficking. She is a brave survivor who tells her story to help others. Karla is happily married now and has three children.



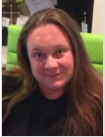
Joyce H. Lyford
Board Member
International Service Chair

Since 2017, as a survivor advocate and outreach specialist, Karla has shared her testimony of personal lived experience of sex trafficking. She has created a non-profit called Mercy Gate Ministries focusing on the restoration and healing of trafficking survivors. She is currently a member of the Human Trafficking Survivor Leader Council for the Governor's Office for the State of Texas. Recently, they have undertaken a project to review a 5 year strategic plan being implemented across the State of Texas to fight against trafficking.



Aaron S. Mangum
Board Member

Karla shared with us some resources that are helpful in learning more about Sex Trafficking and how we can help those who are victims:



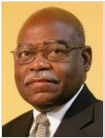
Jennifer Nichols
Board Member

Sex Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888



Dennie Williams
Board Member

<https://www.missingkids.org/HOME>
<https://www.our.org>



Haywood Berkley Joiner Jr.
iPast President

American Airlines Shares With Rotary Members



On March 23, our guest speaker was Letticia Howland, with American Airlines and our own Rotary member, **Sandra McQuain**, CEO of England Airpark. Letticia shared what American Airlines is doing to make flying safer and easier for everyone. She shared indicators that air travel is increasing with levels of travel in some markets reaching 80-90 percent of where they were pre-COVID. She also announced that they were adding one flight a day round trip from AEX to Charlotte, NC beginning in early April. Now we can fly west to Dallas or East to Charlotte on American.

Letticia also awarded 17 of our members with Platinum or Gold upgrades or 5,000 frequent flyer miles on American. It was a fun and informative meeting.

Events

April 6th
Speaker: Brad Fontenot
Subject: Avant Organics and the Future of Chemistry

April 13th
Speaker: Evelyn Jones and Dr. Randall Dupont
Subject: LSUA Small Business Development Center

April 19th
Monthly Board Meeting

April 20th
Speaker: Aaron Mangum, Facilitator
Subject: Rotary Career Day and Scholarships

April 27th
Speaker: Lafe Jones, Facilitator
Subject: Annual Service Above Self Award

Sidebar

Thanks to **Robert Taylor** and **Lafe Jones** for helping to plan our programs for the month of April.

Club Meeting

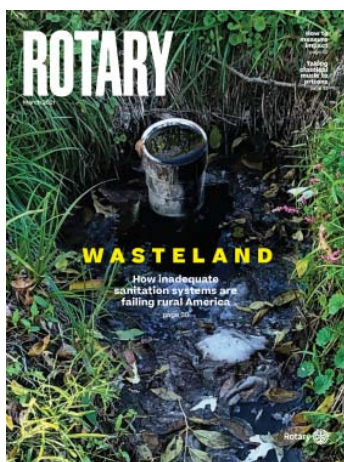
Alexandria
Meets at Alexandria City
Hall Convention Center
www.alexandriarotary.com
915 Third St
Alexandria, LA 71301
Time: Tuesday at 12:00
PM

International Rotary Convention to be Virtual Again



Once again, the International Rotary Convention will take place virtually and you are invited to attend. The convention is scheduled for June 12-16, 2021. The theme is Rotary Opens Opportunities. Registration for the Convention will open in mid-April and will include a promotional fee of \$49 for 21 days, with an increase afterward to \$65. For more information, go to <https://convention.rotary.org/en>

Did You Notice?



Did you notice the new look and new name for Rotary Magazine which you receive each month as a member of our Rotary Club? After nearly 110 years, the "Rotarian" is now called "Rotary." The redesign didn't stop with the cover. The goal is to update the image to best reflect Rotary's energy, diversity and international impact in a changing world. The magazine is a good read and keeps all Rotarians informed of the many ways Rotary and Rotarians do amazing things in the world we live in. If you are not receiving your copy, please let us know.

Club Anniversaries

Name	Date Joined	Yrs. in Rotary
Tom Hardin	4/27/71	50
Bob Ginsburgh	4/1/88	33
Blake Chatelain	4/1/92	29
Deborah Randolph	4/1/94	27
Bill Tudor	4/1/94	27
Rebecca Morris	4/1/95	26

Willie Obey	4/18/00	21
Rob Ratcliff	4/2/01	19
Richard Starling	4/8/03	18
Gena Gore	4/26/05	16
Rachael Dauzat	4/22/14 *	15
Rick Ducote	4/26/11	15
Zeb Winstead	4/24/07	14
Wade Bond	4/16/09	12
Val Aymond	4/26/11	10
LB Matthews	6/8/14	7
Mike Mikell	4/1/14	7
Rick Brewer	4/7/15	6
Sonia Chevallier	4/7/15	6
Terry Spruill	4/27/17	4
Jack Brame	4/23/19	2
Susan Broussard	4/23/19	2
Randall Dupont	4/23/19	2
John Rowan	4/23/19	2

* = some years in another Club

Birthdays

Tom Jarreau Hardin
April 4th

Lydia Poret
April 9th

J. B. Stroud
April 11th

Toby Brazzel
April 15th

Glenn Turner
April 24th

Victor H. Sooter
May 1st

Martha Bradford
April 5th

Bradley Kirzner
April 10th

Laura Beth Matthews
April 12th

Richard B Brewer
April 19th

Judy Rundell
April 24th

William A. Tudor
April 7th

Larry Michael Cordaro
April 10th

Grace Semones
April 12th

Susan Denise Bowers
April 21st

Benjamin H. Vu
April 27th