



Club Leaders



Robert A. Taylor Jr.
President



Katie Vanderlick
President-Elect



Judy Caplan Ginsburgh
Secretary



Robert H. Ginsburgh
Treasurer



Edwin J. Caplan
Rotary Foundation Chair



June Johnson Davis
Sergeant-at-Arms



Melinda Anderson
Board Member



Larry Michael Cordaro
Board Member



Jason D. Hawk
Board Member



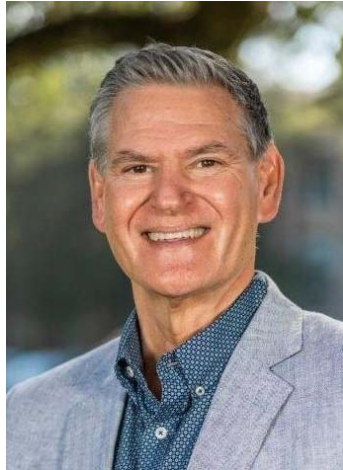
Frank J. Jackson
Board Member



Scott Lucien Laliberte
Board Member

Trish Leleux
Board Member

President's Message



Dear Rotarians of Alexandria:

Another Year in the books!!! 2023, we are ready!!!

Rotarians of Alexandria, I know that you are as surprised as I am that 2022 passed by so fast. We have had an incredible Rotary Year so far with awesome programs, events and fellowship. I am encouraged that these next 6 months will be even more exciting as we continue to Imagine Rotary together.

The month of December was very rewarding for our club. **Scott Laliberte** and his Party Planning entourage gave us a Holiday Party to remember along with the great food prepared and presented by John Ed Laborde and the members of our "Every Tuesday" Panorama Team.

Our speaker, John Gunter gave a very inspirational talk on his comeback after literally hitting rock bottom while gaining so much success in life. The critical theme in his presentation was that people invested in him. The relationships that he built in his life were the same relationships that saved him from his addiction and his unescapable failure. To be featured in TIME Magazine for his

success is a testimony to the influence that we as human beings can have on one another's lives. If we devote our time to engaging others with the sheer purpose of investing in their lives, we are truly in a position to provide service above self. Our community needs this type of investment from each and every Rotary Club Member now more than ever. As **Melinda Anderson** followed John Gunter with her tribute as his friend, I was reminded of the Rotary Theme in 1994-1995 "Be a Friend". Imagine Rotary with all of the friends that we join with each and every Tuesday to invest in one another's lives. Let's challenge one another to build relationships that lead to the success that John has gained in business but more so in life.

Concluding our year with the Doll and Toy event was spectacular. **Jim Smilie** and the Doll and Toy Committee put on the show of all toy shows and brought joy to so many CENLA children this Christmas. Santa, Ms. Claus and a multitude of Rotarians engaged with so many parents, grandparents, caregivers and children to spread the Christmas cheer of giving throughout the community. In an effort to distribute all of the toys throughout the community, City Councilman Reddex Washington and Council Woman Cynthia Perry distributed more toys to children in the community who were not able to attend the event downtown. Finally, **Patrick Moore** cut a deal with the State Police to distribute the remaining toys to children who were in the hospital on Christmas Eve. In the name of Rotary Patrick and Jim were able to attend the event along with the State Police and their families. As Patrick said Rotary took 2+2 and made it equal 7...

Get excited in 2023, get people to Rotary!!!

Ladies and Gentlemen, I truly Love OUR Rotary!!!

Robert Taylor

Salvation Army Holiday Cheer

Once again, **Bob Bash** arranged for members of our Club to ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive outside of Sam's Club. The following Rotarians participated and raised the amounts shown:

Thurs., Dec. 1 - **Bernard Kramer, Chris Daigrepoint, Kristine Antoon, Annie Collins, Kara Edwards, Rebecca Morris, Paul Coreil, Wally Fall** raised \$362.34.

Friday, Dec. 2 - **Fred & Daphne Reid, Frank Jackson, June Johnson Davis, Melinda Anderson, Evelyn Jones, Jason Hawk** and family raised \$855.89.

Thurs., Dec. 8 - **Carly Long**, Wendi Powell, **Matt Henry, Amy Pillarisetti, Jim Chancey, Gail** and Charles **Wilking** raised \$486.08.

Friday, Dec. 9 - **Arlene Duos, Jerome Hopewell, Bill Bond, Jimmy Whittle, Robert Taylor, Warren Morris, Joyce Lyford** raised 690.14.

Thurs., Dec. 15 - **Jason Hayes, Bob Bash, Jay Scott**, Susan and James Dukes, **Randy Ponthie & son**,



Peggy Humbles and grandson raised \$491.



Patrick C. Moore
Board Member

Friday, Dec. 16 - **Haywood Joiner, Heather Poole, Misty Slayter, Dan Cohn** raised 864.17.

Total money raised by Rotary bell ringers - \$3,754.52.

Thanks to all who helped with this important community project.



Jennifer Nichols
Board Member



Pictured: **Kristine Antoon** and **Annie Collins** (left) **Paul Coreil** (right)



James William Smilie Jr.
Board Member



Randall Ponthie
iPast President

Events

January 3rd

Speaker: Dr. Greg Upton, Jr.

Subject: Louisiana Energy Outlook, 2023

January 10th

Speaker: Phil Brocato

Subject: Understanding Personality Traits to Improve Business

January 16th

Monthly Board Meeting

January 17th

Speaker: Dr. Mike Strain

Subject: Update on Louisiana Agriculture

Doll and Toy Give-Away Event

Our annual Doll and Toy give away was held on Saturday, December 17 at City Hall. Lots of Rotarians and their families showed up to help. And Santa and Mrs. Claus were there too, spreading Christmas cheer. The toys that were left over were brought to the State Police Troop E headquarters and will be sorted and given out to children who are in the hospital during Christmas. Thanks to **Jim Smilie** for heading up this committee and to all those who helped and supported this worthy service project.



Sidebar

Many thanks to **Pat Moore, Katie Vanderlick** and **John Benjamin** for planning the programs for January.

Gumbo Cook-Off

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



As part of the City's Winter Fete Celebration, Rotary sponsored a gumbo cook-off with proceeds going to the Doll and Toy Fund. Four teams participated in the cook-off: **Nolan Spillers** from First Guaranty Bank (a proposed new member of our Club); City Councilman, Jim Villard; Brian Fontenot and Sheila Draper. **Nolan Spillers** took first place, with Jim Villard winning the people's choice award. The judges were Club President, **Robert Taylor**, **Scott Laliberte** and KALB's Dylan Domangue. A total of \$597 was raised for the Doll and Toy Fund. Thanks to **Jim Smilie** for coordinating this event for our Club.

Holiday Party



The Annual Holiday party was attended by almost 200 people. **Scott Laliberte** and his helpers including **Melinda Anderson**, **Kelly Pepper**, **Glenda Stock-Smith**, **Trish Leleux** and **Maggie Martin** did a beautiful job once again. The day featured an inspiring talk by John Gunter and music performed by members of the Rapides Symphony. Panaroma Foods provided a delicious meal beginning with gumbo or crab and brie soup, tenderloin of beef, turkey, coconut shrimp, sweet potatoes, green beans almandine, salad and bread pudding or chocolate mousse for dessert.

New Members



Josh Zona is the Music Director of the Rapides Symphony Orchestra. He has been in our area for 18 years. Josh has degrees from Ohio State University and Michigan State University with his highest degree being a Doctor of Musical Arts. He has two sons and joined Rotary to meet more people in the community. His sponsor is **Maggie Martin**.

Paul Harris Campaign

In honor of International Polio Day, our Club offered a match to receive a Paul Harris Fellow award. Members could donate \$300 and this would be matched with 700 points. Several members chose to take advantage of this special offer. On December 6, we awarded the following Club members with Paul Harris Fellow awards:

Graham Kramer - Paul Harris +8
Randy Ponthie - Paul Harris +6
Mike Mikell - Paul Harris +6
Kelli Brazzel - Paul Harris first time
Toby Brazzel - Paul Harris first time
Jim Chancey - Paul Harris first time

A Rotarian also has the ability to bestow this honor on others and two Paul Harris Awards were given to non-

Rotarians. **Robert Taylor** gave an award to Rebecca Simpson (wife of former Club member, Larkin Simpson) and an Anonymous donor gave the award to local artist and educator, Morris Taft Thomas.

In addition, Club member, **Lou Bangma**, was named a "Major Donor" - a member who has given over \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Congratulations to all!



Pictured are: Current President, **Robert Taylor** and Immediate Past-President, **Randy Ponthie** (left); **Robert Taylor** with Morris Taft Thomas

Club Anniversaries

Name	Start Date	Yrs. in Club
Mike Tudor	1/30/1973	50
Patrick Moore	1/1/1983	40
Sally Foster	1/1/1989	34
Randy Welch	1/10/2006	17
Bill Wallace	1/2/2007	16
Catherine Pears	1/11/2011	12
Thomas David III	1/26/2016 *	10
Aaron Mangum	1/15/2013	10
Susan Bowers	1/27/2015	8
Trish Leleux	1/27/2015	8
Matt Bruyninckx	1/1/2017	6
Jill Hooper	1/24/2017	6
Nycole Johnson	1/24/2017	6
Gail Wilking	1/1/2020	3
John Benjamin	1/1/2022	1
Arlene Duos	1/1/2022	1
Stephen Katz	1/1/2022	1

* some years in another Club

Birthdays

Edwin J. Caplan
January 2nd

Reni Mason
January 9th

Meredith Rennie
January 13th

Frank J Jackson
January 19th

Michael S. Tudor
January 8th

Kay Michiels
January 10th

Peter Dancy
January 15th

Mary Fowler
January 20th

Wally Fall
January 8th

Warren Randall Morris
January 11th

Robert Terry Spruill
January 17th

Joyce H. Lyford
January 22nd

Paul Price
January 22nd
Jack R. Hodges
January 26th

Maggie Burnaman Martin
January 23rd
Matt Henry
January 27th

Wesley J Watkins
January 23rd
Corey A. Lair
January 30th