



Club Leaders



Katie Vanderlick
President



Melinda Anderson
President-Elect



Judy Caplan Ginsburgh
Secretary



Robert Ginsburgh
Treasurer



Michael Upton
President-Nominee



Edwin Caplan
Rotary Foundation Chair



June Johnson Davis
Sergeant-at-Arms



Matthew Bruyninckx
Board Member



Christopher G Daigrepoint
Board Member



Thomas David III
Board Member



Jason Hawk
Board Member



Scott Lalberte
Board Member



Trish Leleux
Board Member



Patrick Moore
Board Member



Jennifer Nichols
Board Member



James Smilie
Board Member

President's Message



This Rotary year has passed by very quickly. It feels like it was only yesterday that I was exploring Melbourne and learning more about Rotary.

We had some really great speakers in April, and May is shaping up to be a great month for our Rotarians. We have some excellent speakers scheduled to appear, including Dr. William Tate, the President of LSU. The next two months will be full of great speakers and great fellowship.

I appreciate all of the Rotarians and your dedication to our club. As leaders in our community, it is our job to be knowledgeable about all things in our community. I truly believe our Rotary speakers help contribute to this.

Let's all remember to create hope in the world and our community and stay Rotary strong.

Katie Vanderlick, President

May Programs

We have another exciting month of programs planned for the month of May. On May 7, we will hear from John Rock Foster, a Cenla native. He will share information about the Middle School MBA Program he developed. On May 14, we will host Dr. William Tate, President of LSU, who will give us an update on what is happening there. On May 21, **Michelle Purl**, Executive Director of the United Way of Central LA will give us an update. And, we will round out the month with a program on May 28th featuring Sister Pearl Ceasar, an Alexandria native, sharing her reflections - "From Lee Street to Life: Divine Providence."

Rotary Bridge Trophy Debut



About two years ago, when **Robert Taylor** was the President of our Rotary club, he proposed that we construct a Sports Trophy that Rotary would present each year to either LSUA or LCU. The trophy would be displayed at the winning university based on which university had the most sports wins in all sports events each year. Robert conceived the idea and Hayes Manufacturing brought it to life with an outstanding trophy featuring the Jackson Street bridge which separates Alexandria (home of LSUA) and Pineville (home of LCU).

This magnificent trophy will be something that our Rotary Club can present to the local university with the most sports wins each year, and it can proudly be displayed on the campus of the winner. In the inaugural year of the Rotary Bridge Trophy, we are proud to announce that LSUA is the winning recipient for the 2024-2025 year.

Congratulations, Generals!



Larry Turner
Board Member



Robert Taylor
Past President

Paul Harris Honors

During the month of April, our Club will honor some of our members with a Paul Harris Fellow or step-up for outstanding service to our Club above and beyond their assigned duties during the last year. The following members received this honor:

Bob Bash - PHF+6
Thomas David III - PHF+5
June Johnson Davis - PHF+2
Judy Ginsburgh - PHF+4
Gena Gore - PHF+2
Will Harp - PHF+2
Angie Johnson - PHF
John Ed Laborde - PHF+2
Scott Laliberte - PHF+3
Deborah Novotny-Upton - PHF+4
Barry Poles - PHF
Mike Tudor - PHF+4
Greg Upton - PHF+1

Congratulations to these members who gave so generously of their time to make our Club and community better. We were able to honor these members through the generous donation of the family of Norman Martin.

There are also two other members we would like to thank who gave much of their time to our Club last year, and they have already reached the highest Paul Harris Level. They are **Ed Caplan** and **Pat Moore**. Many thanks for your leadership.

Events

May 7th
Alexandria Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: John Foster
Subject: Middle School MBA

May 14th
Alexandria Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Dr. William Tate
Subject: LSU Update

May 21st
Alexandria Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Michelle Purl
Subject: United Way Update

May 21st
Board Meeting 1 pm, Bentley

May 28th
Alexandria Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Sister Pearl Ceasar
Subject: From Lee Street to Life: Divine Providence

Sidebar

Many thanks to **Mike Upton, Melinda Anderson** and **Greg Gormanous** for planning our programs in May. If you have an idea for a program, please contact Mike mtupton@aol.com.

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

Rotary Club Mentors Needed for Career Day

The Rotary Club of Alexandria's 2024 initiative to restructure their long-standing Career Day, is happening. We will partner with LSUA and LCU to place international students with prospective business mentors. There are more than 250 international students in Central Louisiana each semester, arriving from more than 20 countries. These students are held to the highest standards both in education and in the various sports programs in which they participate. **We are looking for business leaders in our Rotary Club to be mentors for this important program.**

The decision to launch this program in the fall is strategic, as it aligns with the availability of international students for Optional Practical Training (OPT) in the spring semester. OPT is a temporary employment authorization for international students in the United States, allowing them to gain practical work experience in their field of study. The Career Day pilot program aims to shift focus towards helping students develop their career post-college. Moreover, it seeks to serve as a platform for Rotary members, in management and ownership roles, to identify potential internship candidates among participating students. By connecting students with mentors in their desired career fields, the program aims to foster meaningful relationships between business owners and students who aim to remain in Central Louisiana after completion of study in their career of choice. After year one's developmental phase, incoming students will be required to develop a career path that includes both local Rotary involvement and the Rotary Clubs in their home country.

The project has several potential benefits, including: enhanced career exploration, networking opportunities, skill development, potential internship opportunities, cultural exchange and community engagement. Overall, the project aims to empower career aspirations, build valuable connections, and gain practical experience ultimately preparing students for careers in their chosen field.

I encourage you to take advantage, and participate as a Career Day Mentor, in this amazing pilot program," says **Jennifer Nichols**, program coordinator. "Speaking from personal experience, I can attest to the benefits of meeting some of the brightest, hard-working students in Central Louisiana. Not only will you offer them insight to onsite training, you will help foster an international environment of learning and, possibly, develop a business relationship with potential entry-level employees."

If you are interested in learning about this developing program or would like to sign-up as a Rotary Career Day Mentor, please send your name, business name, field of concentration, and contact information to Jennifer Nichols at jennifer@teamvisualconcepts.com.

It is extremely important to begin building a database of member mentors NOW for the October launch date. The potential for this to grow businesses in Central Louisiana is outstanding and you can be a part of this pilot program by signing up, today!

RYLA Leadership Camp



Each summer, our Rotary club sends about 15 high school students to a leadership camp for a week. It is known as Camp RYLA. This year, RYLA will be held from June 23-June 28 in Dubach, Louisiana. The information gained as this camp is immeasurable. We hear over and over again from teens who were reluctant to attend how incredible the experience was and how the lessons learned there will affect them for the rest of their lives. If you know of a sophomore who will be a junior in high school next year who might want to attend, please direct them to fill out a RYLA application. Applications can be found at our club website - www.alexandriarotary.com under the Documents tab. All expenses are paid by our Rotary Club, including transportation to and from camp. If you have questions, please contact RYLA Chair, **Chris Daigrepoint** at chrisd@oandcocpas.com.

LSUA Rotaract Club

At one of our recent meetings, we were excited to meet Shelby Johnston, the President of the Rotaract Club which we sponsor at LSUA. They have lots of exciting plans for the rest of the year, and we will be keeping you posted on what they are doing, so we can support them as well.



Club Anniversaries

Name	Date Joined	Yrs. in Rotary
Ed Hixson	5/1/71	53
Brent Pearson	5/1/91	33
Lafe Jones	5/1/95	29
Warren Morris	5/30/06	18
Chris Chelette	5/29/07	17
Frank Jackson	5/19/15	9
Susan Menache	5/5/15	9
Matt Henry	5/2/17	7
Cindy Sayes	5/2/17	7
Will Harp	5/20/20	4
Chris Karam	5/12/20	4
Mike Shelton	5/19/20	4
Evelyn Jones	5/1/21	3
Connie Cooper	5/1/23	1
Dan Purvis	5/1/23	1
MacKenzie Young	5/1/23	1

Birthdays

Victor H. Sooter
May 1st

Billy L. Tingle
May 7th

Catherine M Pears
May 13th

Dan Condell
May 18th

Willard A. Harp Jr.
May 22nd

Joseph R. Rosier Jr.
May 25th

Jada Lewis
May 29th

Annie Collins
May 5th

Thomas David III
May 12th

Kristy Zachary
May 14th

David E Jeffreys
May 18th

Edward L. Tarpley Jr.
May 23rd

Nolan Spillers
May 28th

James William Smilie Jr.
May 6th

Rodney V. Noles
May 12th

Joseph Gauthreaux Sr.
May 18th

Evelyn Jones
May 21st

Dorman Clayton
May 24th

Rachael L. Dausat
May 28th