

Chuck Abell MPH SM B	Arthur Lewis PH SM
Dale Robertson Agosto PH SM	Bengt Lindell PH SM
Niki Arabie	Carolyn Louviere MPH SM
Karl Arceneaux MPH SM	Emery Lyon MPH SM
Rick Arceneaux MPH SM	Roger Mallett PH SM
Jackie Balmer* PH SM	Mike Mills PH
Herschel Bourque MPH SM	Ronnie Petree MPH SM
Veronica Comeaux PH SM	John Pickle MPH SM
Bernadine Daboval* MPH SM	Clarence Prudhomme*
Pat Deshotel PH	PDG MPH SM
Steve Eastman PH SM	Richard Robertson MPH SM
Jared Fontenot PH SM	Emily Romero PH SM
Sam Fontenot MPH SM	Jacque Romero PH
Mary Gaudin PH SM	Troy Romero PH SM
Paul Guillory PH SM	Brant Smith
Arlene Heinen* MPH SM	Boyd Sockrider SM
Lauren Heinen PH SM	Kyle Todd* MPH SM
Becky Hudson* MPH SM B	Paul Trahan PH SM
Chris Humble PH	Fr. Alan Trouille MPH SM
Darlene Kyle* PH SM	Jessica N. Vonderstein PH
Tina Lawrence PH	Claude Watkins PH SM
Shelly Hay LeBlanc* MPH SM	Rev. Chan Willis* PH SM
Carolyn LeJeune MPH SM	Jim Wright* MPH SM

\* – Board of Directors      MPH – Multiple Paul Harris

SM – Sustaining Member      B – Benefactor

PH – Paul Harris

### Honorary Members

Chip Kyle PH	Kitty Prudhomme MPH
Ronnie Oustalet	Paul Savoit PH

## Make-ups

Club Members are encouraged to make up meetings at the above clubs, to promote fellowship and increase attendance. If you are traveling out of the area, ask JIM or BECKY to locate a club for you in your area of travel.

Rotary Club of Welsh website:  
[www.welshrotary.org](http://www.welshrotary.org)

# THE THRESHER

*The Rotary Club of Welsh Newsletter*  
 Established – June 5, 1936

February 6, 2023



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

**Rotary International President  
Jennifer Jones**

**District Governor  
Tim McNabb**

**2022-2023 Club Officers**

**President  
Arlene Heinen**

**President Elect  
Shelly Hay Leblanc**

**Secretary Treasurer  
Bernadine Daboval**

**Today's Program  
Crystal Wilt  
Greengate Nursery**

# THE HARVEST

AI message from Rotarian Bernadine:

Nick Simoneaux has extended an invitation to our club to attend their meeting on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:30 A.M. at 213 American Legion Drive in Rayne. Billy Nungesser will be their guest speaker. He would like a head count. Let me or Arlene know by Friday, Feb. 24th.

Mardi Gras ain't over till it's over.



*Mardi Gras Rolls!*

So go on and get out there. Have a good time, and be safe. There have been several notices given regarding unsafe practices, probably fueled by overconsumption of alcohol, along the routes. Please don't become a statistic.

We will hear from Ms. Wilts with Greengate today (please hold the comments). Spring is springing, and it's time for gardens to get a fresh start.

# Rotary First Harvest

Rotary First Harvest has been funneling donations of imperfect or “ugly” produce to food banks in Washington via donated shipping since the 1980s. The program also organizes volunteers for gleaning, the ancient practice of going through fields after harvest to pick up remaining crops for the poor.

Leaders of the Seattle program visited Little Rock last fall to talk with Rotarians who have been supporting a project that helps small-scale sustainable farmers in Arkansas. The two clubs discussed ways to bring farmers and food banks together to fight poverty and build better food delivery systems.

Recently, Rotary First Harvest has taken its hunger fight to the national level with its Harvest Against Hunger initiative. The effort places volunteers from AmeriCorps VISTA with partner food banks to create new programs for recovering produce, recruiting volunteers, and gleaning, with the goal of increasing the quality and quantity of healthy foods available to those in poverty.

“We refer to (the initiative) as an incubator for ideas,” says David Bobanick, executive director of Rotary First Harvest. “We are not saying, ‘Here is our model — make this work in your community.’ Instead, our approach is, ‘Here is this VISTA resource — make something that works in your community.’” After the meeting with Little Rock Rotarians, Harvest Against Hunger placed a VISTA member with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to work with local farmers, including those in the Little Rock project.

One effort that has been working in Washington is a Farm to Food Pantry program, which awards small grants for scattered hunger-relief groups to form two-way relationships between small-scale or remote farmers and food banks.

“We saw increases not only in the variety of produce coming into food banks, but that those farmers selling produce were more likely to donate additional produce,” says Bobanick. “It's one thing that could work in Arkansas. In any event, we will leverage off the pre-existing connections with the farmers in the Little Rock project.” Since 1982, this effort has distributed more than 203 million pounds of produce to hungry people through local food banks.