

Michael Step  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
Biweekly, January 19, 2021



NEWSLETTER | [www.rotarydistrict6490.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6490.org) | [www.facebook.com/rotarydistrict6490](https://www.facebook.com/rotarydistrict6490)

### JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH



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VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH**

Does Your Rotary Club have a Vocational Service Committee? Does Your Rotary Club have Vocational Service projects that are relevant in your community? If not, now is a good time to start. You just may find something that your Rotary Club can do in the Vocational Service field for your community.

January is Vocational Service Month on the Rotary calendar. Vocational Service is at the heart of Rotary, which was founded on the classification system of membership. Business and professional life are the bedrock of Rotary, and Vocational Service is a major force in promoting honour, integrity, and trustworthiness in business.

Following are some suggested activities to undertake during Vocational Service Month:

- Introduce a "mini-classifications talk" series in which each member gives a five-minute talk on his or her vocation. Schedule one speaker for the beginning of each meeting until everyone has made a presentation. The purpose of these talks is to promote vocational awareness among Rotarians and help them recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations.
- Present a vocational award to someone in the community who has exemplified outstanding professional achievement while maintaining very high ethical standards. Promote the presentation within the community, and consider making it an annual January event.
- Invite experts to give a presentation on the vocational needs of the community and develop a project in response to those needs. Possible projects could focus on developing character, providing career information to youth, mentoring small businesses, or organizing workshops that provide employees with new skills.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Club Attendance

Jane Chamberlain, District Administration/Communication

Hello Club leaders! Thank you for your dedication and engagement this Rotary year. I have had a few questions about club attendance - mostly because attendance is down for most clubs.

### DISTRICT EVENTS

- January 21st  
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- January 23rd  
[Heart 2 Heart Project Fair \(Zones 30 & 31 Presentation\)](#)  
**Speaker:** DGE Heather Stoa
- January 25th  
[LAST CALL FOR 2020 Essay Contest for High Schoolers](#)
- January 31st  
[2020 Essay Contest for High School Students: Submission Deadline](#)
- February 6th  
[ONLINE District 6490 INTERACT Conference](#)
- February 7th  
[RI Assembly \(typically attended by district leadership, DGE\)](#)
- February 8th  
[VIRTUAL TRAINING: Innovative Club Models \(Zone 31 event\)](#)
- February 13th  
[VIRTUAL RLI - Rotary Leadership Institute](#)
- February 15th  
[Last Day: Early Registration Discount for 2021 Rotary Convention](#)
- February 18th  
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- March 4th  
[District Global Grants Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** PDG Kevin Yonce  
**Subject:** District 6490 Global Grants
- March 8th  
[District Committee Chair Meeting With DG Mike Step](#)  
**Speaker:** DG Mike Step  
**Subject:** Bi-Monthly meeting of District Leadership to review progress on goals
- March 8th  
[VIRTUAL TRNG: Start Culture Change in Your Club \(Zone 31 event\)](#)
- March 16th  
[PETS: Virtual Assistant Governor Training](#)
- March 18th  
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- March 18th  
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Opening Session 1](#)

### DISTRICT LEADERS



Michael D. Step  
DG  
District Governor



Heather Stoa  
District Governor Elect

Connie D. Walsh

Kevin W.

Reporting your club attendance to the district is not required.

Your club can decide whether to take and track attendance. Your club can use club attendance as it sees fit.

Over the past several years, Rotary International has relaxed its traditional stance on attendance. Your club can, too. A review of your bylaws might be to see what you "should" be doing with regards to attendance. Many clubs have relaxed attendance requirements, too, to allow more flexibility for members.

If you have any additional questions about club attendance, please don't hesitate to ask. Thanks again and best wishes for health and safety in the coming months!

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Heart 2 Heart Virtual Project Fair Saturday, January 23, 10:00-12:00

If you are interested in learning more about Heart 2 Heart, this is your opportunity to be involved with international projects from the beginning. Your feedback on the proposals is appreciated. Funding for Global Grants is possible because of personal donations by Rotarians in our district to The Rotary Foundation, and a portion of our Districted Designated Funds (DDF) is allocated to Heart 2 Heart projects in Mexico.

Join us via Zoom to learn more

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89747622760?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89747622760?pwd=SHV3SItVS1d2NE83RERrZGt1TkpzUT09)

[pwd=SHV3SItVS1d2NE83RERrZGt1TkpzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89747622760?pwd=SHV3SItVS1d2NE83RERrZGt1TkpzUT09)

Meeting ID: 897 4762 2760

Passcode: 695360



### Young Leaders In Action: Rise Up and Unify Youth Leader Conference February 6, 2021

Join us for a leadership & empowerment youth-led experience! We are giving away \$1,000 worth of e-gift cards from stores and restaurants.

Register today and login Zoom to win!

[https://www.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rise-up-unify-leadership-conference-tickets-135439550341)

[eventbrite.com/e/rise-up-unify-leadership-conference-tickets-135439550341](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rise-up-unify-leadership-conference-tickets-135439550341)

### Take your leadership skills to the next level with Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) February 13, 2021

Rotary Leadership Institute is a program designed to provide the following opportunities for Rotarians:

- A comprehensive leadership and development program designed to strengthen individual Rotary Clubs through education, collaboration and the exchange of ideas among current and future leaders.
- A multi-part curriculum facilitated by experienced and trained faculty members that engages all participants through open discussion, problem solving and even creative role-play exercises.
- A program recommended by Rotary International and implemented in more than 400 districts in over 180 countries.

More info: <http://www.hoa-rli.org/>

Register today! <http://www.hoa-rli.org/rli/district-6490-rli-seminars>

### Presidents-Elect and Presidents-Nominees PETS March 16-25, 2021



**DGN**  
District Governor  
Nominee



**Yonce PDG**  
Vice District  
Governor



**Douglas Bock**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Hank  
Campbell**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Janet Ellis-  
Nelson DGND**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Joseph  
Fearday**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Michael C.  
Hirschi**  
Assistant  
Governor



**John Hoblit**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Mary Fraser  
Hodson**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Jeremy  
LaKosh**  
Assistant  
Governor



**John P.  
Mahaffey**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Michael W.  
Martin**  
Assistant  
Governor



**James D.  
Matthews**  
Assistant  
Governor



**John B.  
Meek**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Judith Story**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Deborah  
West**  
Assistant  
Governor  
Coordinator



**Julie L. Dobski  
PDG**  
Director of  
Public Relations



**Beverly A.  
Soltwedel**  
District  
Trainer



**Stacey Jolley**  
District  
Membership  
Chair



**Kevin D.  
Kuebler**  
District  
Treasurer



**Thomas P.  
Redington**  
Director of  
Youth Service



**Larry J.  
Howell PDG**  
Director of  
Foundation  
&  
International  
Service

**Julie A. Stump**  
Achievement  
Awards

**Elizabeth  
Palma**  
District  
Newsletter  
Editor



# Land of Lincoln PETS

Rotary Districts 6490, 6510, 6560 and 6580



Save the dates for the Land of Lincoln Virtual Presidents-Elect Training Seminar. Topics covered will include Membership, Foundation, Public Image, and Leadership Development. Keynote speakers are Rotary International President-Elect 2021-2022 Shekhar Mehta, Rotary International Director-Elect 2021-2023 Elizabeth Usovicz, author and motivational speaker Michael Angelo Caruso from Rotary Club of Troy, Michigan and Amanda Folmer, the youngest president in the 99-year history of the Rotary Club of South Tyler, Texas. The District Governors Elect from the four districts in the LOL PETS alliance will be leading additional breakout sessions specific to each district. If Presidents-Elect and Presidents- Nominee are not receiving pmails from LOL PETS, please let Heather or Connie know. The LOL PETS website: [www.lolpets.org](http://www.lolpets.org) has additional information with newsletters, course assignments in the RI Learning Center, and a soon to be active registration link.

- Tuesday March 16, 5:30-7:30 pm Assistant Governor Training
- Thursday March 18, 5:30-7:30 pm Opening Session
- Saturday March 20, 9:00-11:00 am Session 2
- Saturday March 20, 1:00-3:00 pm Session 3
- Tuesday March 23, 5:30-7:30 pm Session 4
- Thursday, March 25, 5:30-7:30 PN Session

Have fun while connecting people and purpose through leadership training.

## TOOLS TO HELP YOUR CLUB SUCCEED

By Beverly Soltwedel

### Training Talk

Did you know that professional development and training are right at your fingertips? Where -- you might ask! At the Rotary Learning Center. At this site you have the opportunity to learn from a large range of topics, from Rotary Basics to developing leadership skills to preparing for your next Rotary role.

Anyone with a "MY ROTARY" account can enroll in these courses through the Learning Center. There are many great classes available and they are all free! All you need to do it take the time -- log in-and learn.

Being a Rotarian gives one many great opportunities to learn and grow. We all need to take advantage of them.

For a new Rotary member, the Learning Center provides classes that will help them understand Rotary's motto of Service above Self.

Being a Rotary Club member is so much more than attending a weekly meeting. It is building great friendships and learning to know the business leaders within our communities and beyond. It is truly an honor to be a Rotary member. Let's all look around in our communities and find people who would make great members, then it is our responsibility to make sure they know about our Learning Center. Once they understand the "why" of being a member-they will then understand the "how" to become a great member.

## THE PASSING OF PAST ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR GREGORY YANK

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Zones 30 & 31 Past Rotary International Director Greg Yank on January 5, 2021. Greg served as District 6510 Governor in 2001-2002 and agin in 2010-2011. As RI Director, Greg served from 2017-2019.

Greg was a friend and mentor to many Rotarians around the world and will be missed deeply. His legacy will live on in the lives that hee touched as a true Rotarian and Servant Leader.

[Obituary | Gregory F. Yank of O'Fallon, Illinois | Wolfersberger Funeral Home \(wfh-ofallon.com\)](#)

Greg was a devoted Catholic who lived his faith through Rotary. He was a Rotarian in the Rotary Club of O'Fallon, Illinois, where he served as President in 1992-93 and then as Governor of Rotary International District 6510 Southern Illinois in 2001-2002 and again in 2010-11. Greg



Jane Chamberlain  
District Communications Officer

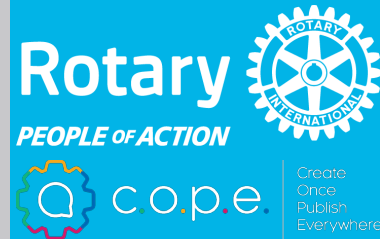
## BE SOCIAL



Website: [www.rotarydistrict6490.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6490.org)

Email: [rotarydistrict6490@gmail.com](mailto:rotarydistrict6490@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: Rotary District 6490, P.O. Box 265, Downs, IL 61736



### Rotary Opens Opportunities For:



Promoting Peace    Fighting Disease    Supporting Education



Saving Mothers & Children    Providing Clean Water    Growing Local Economies

completed his term as Rotary International Director 2017-2019. Additionally, he served as Chair and then Member of Rotary's Strategic Planning Committee. Greg received the *Service above Self Award* in 2014 which is a prestigious award for Rotarians who demonstrate their commitment to helping others by volunteering their time and talents. Greg and Catherine are members of the Arch Klumph Society and the Bequest Society. Greg believed that Rotary enabled him to **live a life that mattered** because he knew that lives in our communities and the world could be changed because of what Rotarians do!



## 2020-21 MATCH POINTS CAMPAIGN

By Mike Hirschi

We have about 2 weeks left in the District 6490 Match Points Campaign in support of The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund and Polio Plus. As of 01/12/2021 I have recorded almost \$21,500 in contributions. There are more coming in via Rotary Direct. Our goal is at least \$50,000 so we need a lot of activity in these last weeks.

Thanks for all who have contributed. If you wish to give more, please do.

If you wish to contribute and participate, [use this form to claim your points](#). Either way, you will be "doing good" in the world.

If you have any questions, or need to know your RotaryID, just email [michaelchirschi@gmail.com](mailto:michaelchirschi@gmail.com) and let me know how I may help.

Mike Hirschi, Foundation Chair & Past-President  
Champaign West Rotary Club  
Assistant Governor (Area 6) and Foundation Committee

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

### MATTOON ROTARY CLUB



Mattoon Rotary Club was able to raise more than \$61,000 in monetary donations for the food center and the Salvation Army pantry recently even though its 36th annual door-to-door [food drive in December](#) had to be canceled due to the the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read full article below

[https://jg-tc.com/news/local/watch-now-mattoon-rotary-club-food-drive-donates-61-000-plus-to-local-pantries/article\\_c23c0390-2e66-5b99-9080-4ceeff482912.html](https://jg-tc.com/news/local/watch-now-mattoon-rotary-club-food-drive-donates-61-000-plus-to-local-pantries/article_c23c0390-2e66-5b99-9080-4ceeff482912.html)

## BE SOCIAL

Be up to date on our District's news and events.



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