

Michael Step  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
Biweekly, March 17, 2021



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

FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH



World Water Day focuses on water's importance

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clearer than ever that hand washing -- which requires a safe water source -- is essential to our health. Yet more than 2 billion people worldwide don't have access to clean water. Since 2014, The Rotary Foundation has invested more than \$51 million in global grants to enable clubs to carry out projects that help people around the world with clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. For World Water Day on 22 March, [learn how you can get involved in a water project](#) and give to support our work in this area through our [Donate page](#). Go to the **Areas of Focus** tab and choose **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations for the Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity, which honors non-Rotarians, will be accepted between 1 and 31 March. Learn more at [rotary.org/awards](http://rotary.org/awards).

The Normal Rotary Club is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors attending Normal Community High School, Normal West High School, University High School, or the Bloomington Area Career Center who demonstrate qualifications set out in the application. For more information candidates may access the application and its requirements by going to: [www.normalrotary.org/](http://www.normalrotary.org/)

scholarship/.

The deadline for application is Friday, April 2, 2021.



It started out as a peaceful protest, with public demonstrations calling for democratic reforms. But the peaceful demonstrations were met by swift government opposition, eventually giving way

to a brutal war.

DISTRICT EVENTS

- March 18th  
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- March 18th  
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Opening Session 1](#)
- March 20th  
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Session 2](#)
- March 20th  
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Session 3](#)
- March 22nd  
[In Person - Danville Club - DG Visit](#)
- March 23rd  
[PETS: Virtual Club President Training Session 4](#)
- March 24th  
[In Person - Lincoln Club - DG Visit](#)
- March 25th  
[PETS: Virtual Club President Nominee Training](#)
- March 31st  
[In Person - Monticello Club - DG Visit](#)
- April 5th  
[IN PERSON - Champaign Rotary - DG Mike Step Visit/Program](#)
- April 7th  
[In Person - Mattoon Club - DG Visit](#)
- April 8th  
[In Person - Savoy Club - DG Visit](#)
- April 12th  
[VIRTUAL TRAINING: How to do Great Orientations \(Zone 31 event\)](#)
- April 15th  
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- April 18th  
[Foundation Dinner - By Invitation Only](#)
- April 22nd  
[In Person - Danville Sunrise - DG Visit](#)
- May 1st  
[Virtual District Assembly for Club Officers](#)  
**Speaker:** DGE Heather Stoa  
**Subject:** 2021-2022 club and district leadership meeting with training
- May 10th  
[District Committee Chair Meeting With DG Mike Step](#)  
**Speaker:** DG Mike Step  
**Subject:** Bi-Monthly meeting of District Leadership to review progress on goals
- May 11th  
[VIRTUAL TRAINING: Attraction/Engagement Strategies](#)
- May 12th  
[In Person - Metamora/Germantown Hills - DG Visit](#)
- May 15th  
[District 6490 Award Nominations Open](#)

DISTRICT LEADERS

Michael D.

Heather Stoa

Ten years later, the Syrian conflict has shifted into a seemingly unsolvable crisis, leaving a country scarred by terror and instability. Right now, at least 12 million people within Syria need humanitarian assistance.

Shelter needs are immediate, and our goal is to provide aid to 4,100 families in the next 4 months. With your help we can reach these families. We are asking Rotary Clubs and Districts to support this effort through choosing our designated Syrian Refugee Crises fund at <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/syria/> or noting FOR SYRIA on mailed in gifts.

## TOOLS TO HELP YOUR CLUB SUCCEED

### New and updated Learning Center courses

There are several new and updated courses and learning plans for club and district officers in the Learning Center:

- [District Training Committee Intermediate learning plan](#)
- [District International Service Committee](#)
- [Intermediate learning plan](#)
- [Starting a Club](#)
- [Get Ready: District Interact Committee](#)

Start these courses before your 2021-22 year to get a headstart!

### Interacting with your virtual audience

Keeping your audience engaged during virtual training makes learning fun. [Wooclap](#) is a free interactive tool that you can use in your sessions in several ways:

- Add multiple choice questions or polls
- Assign topic ratings
- Generate ideas with participants
- Create word clouds

You can quickly and easily use these features at the start of your next session, during or after a presentation, or as part of a breakout session. [Try it.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Presidents-Elect and Presidents-Nominees PETS March 18-25, 2021



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:

- 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
- 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.

- 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



**Step DG**  
District  
Governor



District Governor  
Elect



**Connie D. Walsh DGN**  
District  
Governor  
Nominee



**Kevin W. Yonce PDG**  
Vice District  
Governor



**Douglas Bock**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Hank Campbell**  
Assistant  
Governor



**Janet Ellis-Nelson DGND**  
Assistant  
Governor,  
DG  
Nominee  
Designate



**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, DTM**  
District Trainer



**Kevin D. Kuebler**  
District  
Treasurer



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

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

**Julie A. Stump**  
Achievement  
Awards

Women of Rotary Presents: It's Not Who You Know, It's Who Knows You!  
April 13, 12:00 PM

Supporting Women of ROTARY Presents: **WOMEN SPEAKER SERIES**

# IT'S NOT WHO YOU KNOW, IT'S WHO KNOWS YOU!

Women of Rotary District 6490 is excited to announce a virtual series featuring entrepreneurial, technical, professional, and innovative Women speakers every month, and is hosted by Women of Rotary District 6490.

**Rotary** District 6490

To register and for more information, visit [www.womenrotary.com/speaker-series](http://www.womenrotary.com/speaker-series)

**| Using your leadership voice**  
**DANA VOGELMEIER**  
Vogelmeier Consulting  
**April 13, 2021**  
12:00pm CST

**| The role of power in the workplace: relationships and leadership**  
**JENNIFER MCCARRON**  
Business Builders Marketing  
**May 11, 2021**  
12:00pm CST

**| Why do we serve?**  
**COLLEEN KANNADAY**  
Carle BroMenn Medical Center  
**June 8, 2021**  
12:00pm CST

[Register today!](#)

Women of Rotary District 6490 is excited to announce a virtual series featuring entrepreneurial, technical, professional, and innovative Women speakers every month, and is hosted by Women of Rotary District 6490.

The scheduled presentations cover a variety of topics such as mentoring, power, and influence.

Through this event, we want to encourage and empower women and men to embrace the Service Above Self motto.

Speakers will share stories of how they have effected change in their lives, at work, at home, and within their communities.

Join us in celebrating and expanding connections in your network as we learn about small changes we can make in our own lives that can have a lasting impact.

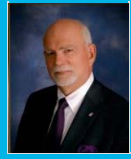
Full list of speakers and dates can be found [here](#).

**Join the Virtual Rotaract Preconvention**

The Rotaract Preconvention, scheduled for 11-12 June 2021, in Taipei, Taiwan, will now be a virtual event in response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

Follow the [Rotaract Facebook page](#) to be the first to learn more about the virtual Preconvention, including registration details and breakout sessions.

**FOUNDATION**



International Service



Jane Chamberlain  
District Communications Officer



Elizabeth Palma  
District Newsletter Editor



PROUD MEMBER

**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**  
PEOPLE OF ACTION

C.O.P.E.  
Create Once Publish Everywhere

**Rotary Opens Opportunities For:**

- Promoting Peace
- Fighting Disease
- Supporting Education
- Saving Mothers & Children
- Providing Clean Water
- Growing Local Economies

## Looking for an easy way to increase your impact?



More and more people are discovering a simple and efficient way to give. Join the hundreds who support The Rotary Foundation with a tax-wise gift from their IRA each year.

- Donors over 70 ½ can make a transfer directly from their **IRA** to The Rotary Foundation
- Find our simple-to-use forms at [rotary.org/plannedgiving](http://rotary.org/plannedgiving) or use your IRA Administrator's to initiate the transfer
- **You can save on income taxes** by taking advantage of this gift type, even if you don't itemize
- Fulfill an existing pledge or establish a new one
- Make a gift for Paul Harris Society, to become a Major Donor, reach the next level or to join Arch Klumph Society
- Establish a fund in Rotary's Endowment that provides support in your name year after year
- **Feel good about making the world a better place with Rotary**

Learn more at:

[Rotary.org/plannedgiving](http://Rotary.org/plannedgiving)  
Rachel Greenhoe, CFRE, Major Gifts Officer  
[Rachel.Greenhoe@rotary.org](mailto:Rachel.Greenhoe@rotary.org)  
847.866.3476



## AROUND THE DISTRICT

### DG Mike Step recognizes Jane Seaman from Rotary Club of Arcola



Mike step presented Jane Seaman from Arcola with the Paul Harris Fellow and District Governor awards.

## BE SOCIAL

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



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