



Rotary
District 6490



District Governor Mike Martin

Happy Thanksgiving!

Dear Rotary Family,

It is not difficult to sit back this weekend and give thanks for all the wonderful things Rotary has accomplished this year—globally, in our communities, and in ourselves.

I am thankful for the “International” in Rotary such as the more than one million polio inoculations provided to children in Gaza during a ceasefire negotiation by Rotary’s PolioPlus group and others in September; or, the Ukrainian family living in Decatur thanks to the Decatur Club.

Rotary and District 6490 are directly involved with so many international projects that we sometime forget all the “good we do.” Oh, and thank you for the many contributions individuals and clubs made to the Guadalajara Service Project water filter fund during my official DG club visits. Your support will provide more than 100 water filters to small, rural communities in Mexico.

I am also thankful for the countless events, projects, and fundraisers our 44 clubs and satellites have provided throughout their communities in District 6490. Food drives, road cleanups, murals, food distributions, backpacks for students and foster children, diaper drives, and even “Bessie Bingo.”

Let us not forget the Veteran’s Day celebrations held across the district honoring those who have served and are serving our country. I attended three Veteran's Day events this month. All were different but incredibly special.

Oh, and scholarships! How many students have attended or are attending colleges and universities through the generosity and assistance of Rotary Clubs in our district?

And thank you to our District Peace Builder Clubs. Urbana Rotary installed three peace poles in Urbana-area parks. Mattoon Rotary dedicated two peace poles on the Lake Land College campus in Mattoon last week. One international peace pole was inscribed in 15 languages. The other was an Indigenous peace pole in seven Indigenous languages to honor the tribes who once inhabited land the college and city now occupy. (Here is a link to the video from Lake Land College/MRC’s Peace Pole video: <https://youtu.be/t8jMfNmOWjw?si=9lemsWWag4Khdsmt>)

And finally, personal appreciation to those whose hard work and dedication made the past month so gratifying.

First, thank you to each one of the 1,650 Rotarians in our district. If I could use all the congratulatory adjectives in the dictionary, they would not express my deepest gratitude for all you do for humankind. You are all special to me. Thank you for your commitment to Rotary, District 6490, and your community. You are “*The Magic of Rotary.*”

My sincerest appreciation to the 2024-2025 District Governor Line: DGE John Calderon, DGN Deb West, Immediate PDG Janet Ellis-Nelson, Mike Step, and the newest member of the team, our new DGND Bill Malone. Without your commitment and loyalty, this job would be TOUGH!

To Laura Pritts and her team of Assistant Governors: Their enthusiasm performing their duties is appreciated.



To all our committees and their chairpersons: Thank you for all you do. Because of you, our events and programs go smoothly. District Conference, RYE, RYLA—they run well because of all you do.

To our Past District Governors: I appreciate your friendship, wisdom, and suggestions. You are the historians of District 6490. I look forward to seeing you at the PDG Holiday Brunch on December 2, in Mattoon.

Also of note, the Robinson Rotary Club celebrated its 100th anniversary on November 2. They proudly honored their history as well as their future. For those who attended, thank you for the wonderful memories.

Finally, special thanks to Racheal Fearday. You are the best administrative assistant in the world!

Thank you for keeping me in line and on schedule. I deeply appreciate your dedication and passion for Rotary.

Thank you all for your commitment to Rotary's ideals and the Foundation's mission. I look forward to working closely with each of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Together, we will continue to make a positive difference and create lasting change in the world. Thank you for your dedication and support.

Yours in Rotary Service,

DG Mike

District Governor Visits Effingham & Marshall



District Governor Mike Martin recently visited the Effingham Noon Rotary Club. **Left:** DG Mike Martin with weekly student guest Gabe Koester and Club President Andrew Koester.



DG Mike Martin with Effingham Noon Club member Dave Ring, who he recognized for his continuing efforts on polio eradication.



DG Mike Martin with Marshall Club President Megan Schofield.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Rotarians are encouraged to submit news and information (including articles and photos) regarding grants, service projects, social events, fundraisers, community collaborations, gifts, new members, and initiatives to share the good news and good work with others in our district. The deadline for submissions to be included in the next newsletter is the third week of each month. Please email content for the newsletter to Newsletter Editor: Christine Walsh (Savoy) cwalsh1974@live.com.

Please join us for a
PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR HOLIDAY BUFFET LUNCHEON 2024
HOSTED BY
DISTRICT 6490
Saturday, Dec. 7
11:30 a.m.
Mattoon Golf and Country Club Clubhouse
6799 N. Country Club Road,
Mattoon
\$25 per person
See you there!

District 6490 '27-'28 Governor Selected

Bill Malone, Assistant Governor and Past Club President (Champaign Rotary), has been elected by the District 6490 Nominating Committee to serve as District 6490 Governor 2027–2028.

Bill Malone, a dedicated leader and passionate horticulturist, was born into a farm family in Kankakee, later moving to a small farm in Lombard. His early love for plants and design was nurtured in a greenhouse florist operation next door to his childhood home, setting the foundation for his lifelong career. Initially enrolling at the University of Illinois in engineering, Bill soon followed his passion and earned a degree in ornamental horticulture. His career began at Prairie Gardens, where he managed operations and oversaw the expansion into four Jeffrey Allan stores. After 28 years, he transitioned to leadership roles in landscape design, managing Green View Design Group and later establishing a thriving landscape design/build division at Ludwig Bros Inc.



Bill's career achievements are complemented by an extensive history of civic engagement. He joined the Rotary Club of Champaign in 2006, initially to build business connections, but quickly became deeply involved. Guided by mentors like Art Skelton and Ken Gunji, Bill embraced Rotary's mission of "Service Above Self," serving as Club President (2011-2012) and in many other leadership capacities. His impact extends to Rotary District 6490, where he has held roles such as District Conference Chair (2015) and Assistant Governor (2024-2025). A Paul Harris Fellow+5 and PolioPlus Society member, Bill has received numerous accolades, including Rotarian of the Year for both his club (2013-2014) and district (2014-2015). He looks forward to continuing his service as District Governor, mentoring new members, and supporting clubs in achieving their unique goals.

Beyond Rotary, Bill's community involvement includes serving as Moderator and Volunteer Church Administrator at First Baptist Church of Champaign at Savoy and as a volunteer photo archivist for the Champaign County History Museum. Bill is married to Debby, and together, they have three children and four granddaughters. Whether preserving local history, guiding his church community, or mentoring others through Rotary, Bill remains committed to having a meaningful effect on the lives of those around him.

George Bolser, Rantoul
Pamela Deaton, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Stevenson Harby, Danville-Sunrise
Casey Heimer, Normal
Anne Keyser, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Deborah Malone, Champaign
Ron Margolis, Bloomington-Normal Sunset
Vicky Margolis, Bloomington-Normal Sunset
Joy Miller, Normal
Heather Ochs, CU @ the Rotary
Kenneth O'Neal, Bloomington
Roxanna Parker, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Matthias Pope, Normal
Amanda Vickery, Rantoul

New Members in DACdb as of November 25th

'The Hub' Has Zone News

Visit the Rotary Zones 30 & 31 "The Hub" website at <https://www.rizones30-31.org/news/the-hub/> to find details on:

- Zone programs and groups
- Membership, Foundation, Public Image, and Education resources
- Links to get in touch with Rotary's support center
- Rotary's and The Rotary Foundation's administration
- Rotary's Strategic Plan and Action Plan

Here's a quick summary of what you may have missed recently:

- Hurricane relief opportunities;
- Deadline for Service Above Self nominations;
- World Polio Day;
- Calgary Convention registration discount ending;
- New "thank you" video from The Rotary Foundation;

Polio Update As of Nov. 6

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases								Date of most recent case
	Full year total						01 Jan-05 Nov ¹		
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024	
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	4	45	15-Oct-24
Afghanistan	21	29	56	4	2	6	6	23	14-Sep-24
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	10-Aug-22
Malawi	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19-Nov-21
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
Total (Type 1)	33	176	140	6	30	12	10	68	
Tot. in endemic countries	33	176	140	5	22	12	10	68	
Tot. in non-end countries	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	
No. of countries (infected)	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	
No. of countries (endemic)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	
Total Female	18	72	59	2	10	4	4	26	
Total Male	15	104	81	4	20	8	6	42	

- Time for Interact clubs to submit award nominations;
- 2024 Programs of Scale recipient announced.

Remember...

Enter your club's district officers for Year 25-26 into DACdb and Rotary Club Central by Dec. 31!

Fourth Annual "Pies for Polio" Raises More Than \$4,600 in Bloomington!

Bloomington Rotarians vied for the chance to put a pie in the face of Club President Nate Hinch while supporting the eradication of polio during the month of October. The event raised more than \$4,600 - a new record for the Rotary Club of Bloomington.

All donors to Polio Plus were entered into weekly drawings for pies and every \$100 contribution entitled donors to a chance to "Pie the President." Carole Ringer won that chance and President Nate graciously received the whipped cream confection at the November 14 meeting.



Bloomington Rotary President Nate Hinch (left) receives a pie in the face from Rotarian Carole Ringer (right) at the culmination of the club's Polio Plus Campaign. The month-long event raised more than \$4,600 for the eradication of polio.

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