

Greensburg Rotary Donates AEDs to Local Community

(By Jeff Emsweller) At it's first meeting of the new year, 08 Jan 2024, Greensburg Rotary Club presented the Decatur County community with four Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Purchase of these devices was made possible through a matching grant from Rotary District #6580.

The AEDs will be available at the Decatur County Fairgrounds, Decatur County Parks, Pirate Park Soccer Field and Greensburg High School football/track area. Per the American Red Cross, an AED is an emergency medical device used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's an easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

Accepting the AEDs at the regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club were Mike Meyers and Wes Anderson from Greensburg Community Schools, Greensburg Mayor Joshua Marsh on behalf of Pirate Park, Decatur County Commissioner Mark Koors on behalf of the Decatur County Fairgrounds, and Jody Biddinger on behalf of the Decatur County Parks and Recreation Department.

The Rotary District 6580 Foundation allocated a total of \$38,000 available to any of the 35 clubs making up the Southern District in Indiana. Clubs who applied with a worthy cause received a matching grant to pursue their own projects.

Greensburg Rotary president, Rob DeHoff, said that the Greensburg Rotary Club Board of Directors had authorized the purchase of three AEDs, but thanks to the cooperation of Decatur County Memorial Hospital, the club was able receive a discount which, combined with a donation from Rotarian Dr. Arthur Turner, allowed for the purchase of four AEDs at \$1500 each.

In addition to the AEDs, Greensburg Rotary also provided security boxes with an alarm and siren that activates in the event the AED is accessed.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital offers CPR and AED classes for individuals or companies wishing to train on the device. See more information [HERE](#).



ROTARY CALENDAR

Feb 05 - State of the City - Mayor Marsh

Feb 12 - Service Project - Blankets

Feb 19 - Main Street Greensburg - Rose Conley

Feb 22 - Board Mtg @ The Branch, 8AM

Feb 26 - Networking Event

OFFICERS 2023-2024

Robert DeHoff President

Alex Sefton Past President

Lora Williams Secretary

Linda Simmons Treasurer

Jeff Emsweller Public Relations

Tami Wenning Vocational Service

Daryl Tressler Sergeant-At-Arms

Emily Steele Club / Youth Service

Jerry Fox Int'l Service

Kelby Owens Membership Director

Larry Moore Rotary Foundation Chair

Nathan Vandrey Disaster Response Chair

Mandy Lohrum Asst District Governor

Hard Truth Distillery Hosts Bourbon Tasting for first 5th Monday Event of 2024



(By Jeff Emsweller) Greensburg Rotary Club held its first Fifth Monday meeting for 2024 on January 29 at the Studebaker Studio in Greensburg. When a month has five Mondays, Greensburg Rotary members foregoes the normal, lunchtime meeting at the Branch Coffee House and Gathering Place and replace it with a social event in the evening. These events offer a relaxed atmosphere for members and potential members invited to attend. Greensburg Rotarians and guests thank Hard Truth Distillery for bringing its product for tasting. Also,



Phase Financial, Kelby Owens and ReMax Tower Greensburg, Doug Orr, for providing food for the event. Special thanks to Rotarian Steve Freeman for organizing the event and allowing us to use The Studebaker Studio. (Photos courtesy Jamie Rivera)

Upcoming Events & Service-Above-Self Opportunities:

- **District #6580 Inaugural 'Friends of the Foundation' Event** at the Interpretive Center at Falls of the Ohio State Park, Clarksville, IN on 23 February. This event is FREE for Rotarians and Rotaract members!
- **Archery Tournament fundraiser** at Decatur North High School April 5 (Set up) and April 6 (Event and Teardown); The sign-up schedule is available [HERE](#).
- **District Conference** in Evansville, IN on 20 April, with a "family friendly event/get together" planned for April 19; more details to come
- **Rotary International Convention** in Singapore on 25-29 May

RWE Clean Energy Sr Development Manager Discusses Upcoming Gburg Solar Farm

During the 15 January meeting, Greensburg Rotarians received an informational briefing from Francisco Galeano, Sr Development Manager from RWE Group - Clean Energy, a German company specializing in renewable energy sources, about the planned, 1700-acre solar farm northeast of Greensburg. Galeano, based out of Chicago, has been a familiar face in Greensburg as he has lead efforts in project planning and development, land-lease acquisitions, and engagement with local and state governments as well as the people of Greensburg regarding the mammoth project.

Galeano informed the gathered Rotarians and guests that the 140 megawatt solar farm, planned for initial operation in 2026, is expected to operate for thirty-five years and inject approximately \$30M into local jurisdictions. During its operation, the farm is expected to generate enough electricity on average to power 23,000 - 30,000 homes, create about 300 construction jobs during installation, and provide 3-5 local operations and maintenance jobs.

RWE Group has leased 1,800 acres bordered by IN Highway 3 on the west, I-74 on the south, North County Rd 300 East on the east, and East County Rd 500 North to the north. This is greater than the planned acreage required to ensure there is enough suitable area for the solar panels and the required access road.

During the presentation, several individuals expressed a concern about the project



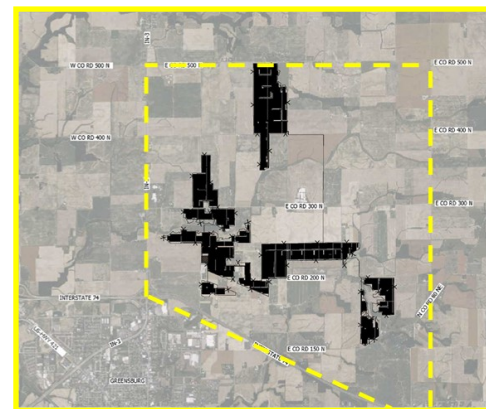
RWE Solar in Germany (manager-magazine)

using acreage had largely been used for farming. Galeano explained that it was an unfortunate truth that land that had previously been tilled and worked for farming also made the best land supporting a solar farm as it provided a significantly more stable base for the panel supports and associated equipment. He also stressed that RWE was under contract to completely return the land to its original condition at the decommissioning of the project, and that RWE would have one year to accomplish this action. At that time, it could be available again for farming. From an environmental perspective, he also stated that the solar cells would be non-toxic, silicone-based and that all aspects of the project were being completed with consultation from US Fish & Wildlife and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

When asked about any potential noise solution, Galeano stated that, while the inverters and other equipment would produce noticeable noise at their locations, the offsets would mean this noise would not normally be noticeable offsite and well below 45 dBA at the fence line. For comparison, the CDC rates a whisper at 30 dBA and a normal conversation at 60 dBA.

Galeano's assertion that RWE goes to great effort to consider environment concerns and considerations at solar farm sites is echoed by [RWE's Greensburg Solar Farm webpage](#) which states, "The Greensburg Solar farm will be designed to complement existing agricultural land uses, protect the soil, and avoid negative impacts to wildlife. Solar farms produce electricity without generating any pollution, resulting in cleaner air and water when compared to traditional power plants."

Galeano, who has engaged extensively with local leaders, boards, and councilman and has hosted public forums on the planned solar farm, was highly complimentary of the people of Decatur county and said that RWE's \$250M Greensburg Solar Farm project would be a great benefit to the community.



GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Dear Rotarians,

We've hit the ground running in the new year, and I'm thrilled to announce that our efforts have already borne fruit. One significant achievement worth celebrating is the successful implementation of our Grant AED donation to the community. This initiative would not have been possible without the dedication and support of our members. Your commitment to improving the well-being of our community is truly commendable, and I have no doubt that these AEDs will serve a crucial purpose and make a meaningful difference in emergency situations.

I'd like to extend a special "thank you" to Steve, Kelby, Doug, and all those who generously volunteered their time and efforts for the social event on Jan 29th. Your hard work and enthusiasm made the event a resounding success, creating an enjoyable atmosphere for all who attended. Let's build on this momentum and look forward to hosting more such events in the future, fostering camaraderie and strengthening our bonds as a club.

Furthermore, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each of you for sharing the vision of Rotary and actively engaging with others in our community. Your dedication to spreading awareness about Rotary's mission and values is evident in the growth we are witnessing as a club. It is truly heartening to see new faces joining Rotary, inspired by the impact we are making together.

As we continue our journey into the new year, let us carry forward this spirit of collaboration, service, and growth. Together, we can achieve even greater milestones and create a lasting legacy of positive change in our community.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and commitment. I'm profoundly grateful for every one of you.

God Bless you all, Rob DeHoff, President, Rotary Club of Greensburg

Rotary International's President-Elect Announces 2024-2025 Presidential Theme



(From Rotary Int'l Website - By Etelka Lehoczky) Rotary International President-elect Stephanie Urchick announced that the 2024-25 presidential theme is *The Magic of Rotary* and called on members to recognize and amplify the organization's power to save lives. "Don't misunderstand me – we are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand and saying some funny words," Urchick told incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly on 8 January. "It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member."

Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, said she saw the magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran out clean at the other end.

"One of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said, 'Show me the magic again,'" she said. "Obviously, the water filter wasn't magic. We worked hard to transport those filters, install them, and work with community leaders in the area to maintain them. But those boys knew that easy access to clean water would change their lives. Knowing that I played a small part in that certainly changed my life."

Prioritizing Peace

Urchick urged members to champion Rotary's Action Plan, find a balance between continuity and change, and work for peace. She plans to host a presidential peace conference in 2025 with the theme "Healing in a Divided World." Rotary has a long history of promoting peace through its network of peace centers, Urchick noted. Located at top universities around the globe, the centers have trained nearly 1,800 peace fellows who are now working in more than 140 countries. The newest center, located at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, will welcome its first class of fellows in early 2025.

"The Rotary Peace Fellowship began more than 20 years ago to equip peace and development professionals from communities around the world to become effective catalysts for ending and preventing conflict," Urchick said. "This conference will focus on Rotary's peace efforts and provide opportunities to learn together."

In addition to emphasizing peacebuilding, Urchick reiterated Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio. She urged the incoming governors to join or initiate PolioPlus Societies in their districts and do all they can to help end the disease. "Contact elected officials and other government leaders. Remind them that polio is still a threat. Push them to support polio eradication," she said. "Polio remains our top priority and requires our fullest commitment, but there is so much important work to do."

Balancing Continuity and Change

Urchick also underscored the necessity of balancing continuity and change, both of which animate Rotary's Action Plan.

"The plan is all about building on our best ideas, not abandoning them," she said. "We face a tough balancing act. We must change ourselves and stay true to who we are."

She asked the governors to do whatever is needed to make the club experience irresistible to members.

"That might mean changing how things are done in your district," she said. "If your district has been doing things one way for 50 years, it's probably time to reassess. If a club in your district isn't active or is losing members, maybe it's time to start a new club that fits better with the community. Just because a club or district hasn't changed in a while doesn't mean no one is hungry for change."

One way to make positive change, she said, is to embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within clubs.

"I hope you'll join me in opening your arms to future people of action, even if – and in some cases, especially if – they don't look or act like the typical member of your local club," she said. "With DEI, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. It's in those moments when we are committed and focused that we are the most effective and relevant."



It's time to sign up and volunteer to support Greensburg Rotary Club's top fundraiser - the Annual Archery Tournament at Decatur North High School. Shifts include Setup Friday from 4-6p; two-hour Admissions and Concessions shifts on Saturday from 7a-530p; and a Clean up shift from 545p to end that night. You can signup during the regular Monday meetings or by clicking [HERE](#)



Interested in knowing more about what's going on throughout Rotary District 6580? Check out the monthly District Newsletter in your email or under the "District" tab in DACbd!

ROTARY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES!!

District 6580 Inaugural 'Friends of the Foundation' Event, 23 Feb 24 in Clarksville, IN



District 6580's first Friends of the Foundation event is set for 23 Feb 24 from 5:30-8pm at the Interpretive Center at Falls of the Ohio State Park, Clarksville, Indiana. The event will include time for socializing and viewing the exhibits and a program to include a viewing of a film on the history of Falls of the Ohio Park, a talk by Cameron Davidson, Rotary Global Scholar, recognition of the newest major donors, and information and update on the Paul Harris Society.

the Interpretive Center at Falls of the Ohio State Park features an architecturally intriguing Interpretive Center that reflects the layers of history of the area with indoor exhibits that flow through Earth's history, focusing on how this river crossroads shaped

America. With a commanding view of the fossil beds and Ohio River, the Center features 3,000 square feet of immersive exhibits, an auditorium, rotunda, classroom, wildlife and river viewing rooms, gift shop, restrooms and water fountains. This event is FREE for Rotarians and Rotaract members, and you can register [HERE](#). For more information, visit the District 6580 home page on DACdb.

District 6580 Annual Conference, 20 April 24 in Evansville, Indiana

The Annual District 6580 Conference is scheduled for 20 April 24 in Evansville, Indiana. Registration is \$139 through 20 March and \$150 after that. You can register online at: <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77667018&NoCaptcha>

This year's Keynote Speaker is Floyd Lancia, a past Rotary International Director who spearheaded Rotary Foundation grant projects that provided free eye surgeries in Nicaragua and clean water for communities in Mexico, in addition to other humanitarian projects in Brazil, India and Africa. Floyd is a member of the Fort Wayne Rotary Club.

There will also be a House of Friendship silent auction, with each club in the district submitting a basket for the event and all proceeds going toward the Paul Harris Foundation!

District has reserved 42 rooms at Doubletree Hilton for \$139/night for Friday and Saturday: 4/19-4/20. If you would like to reserve one of these rooms, they are available (until fully booked) until 22 Mar 24 by calling (812)423-5002 or using the following link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/rotary-district6580-conference/> Note: The block of rooms is under 'Rotary District 6580.'



DG-Elect Mandy Lohrum holds a sample silent auction basket

If you have questions about registration or about hotel reservations, please contact Mike Crumbo at 317-777-1710 or at mike.crumbo@gmail.com.

Rotary International Convention, 25-29 May 24 in Singapore

This year's Rotary International Convention is scheduled for 25-29 May 2024 in Singapore at the [Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre](#). There is a discount for early registration, and the Rotary International Convention website includes information about registration, accommodations and transportation, interpreters (as needed), and event schedules.

You can access the Rotary International Convention information and registration [HERE](#).

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	16 DECEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024	1 APRIL 2024 TO 29 MAY 2024
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 31 or over	\$595	\$695
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 30 or under	\$225	\$275
Guest age 5-18	\$30	\$40
Guest under age 5	Free	Free
Saturday, House of Friendship only	\$60	\$100

COMMUNITY INPUT OPPORTUNITY: Decatur County Parks & Recreation is gathering input on what features to include in a proposed, new Allen Memorial Pool. If you are interested in providing input on this effort, please take the survey at the following link by 15 Feb 24: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewAllenMemorialPool>

