

## The District 6860 Hall of Fame Initial Inductees – Our Founders

As we draw near to the close of our Rotary Year, it allows me a chance to take a retrospective look at how successful all our Clubs have been this year. If we go back far enough, we can celebrate not only this past Rotary Year, but Rotary in Alabama from its Genesis. This allows us a special opportunity as we take time to celebrate those who have given so much of themselves... truly to a level that surpasses our motto of Service Above Self. I would go so far as to say as these individuals have truly given Service BEYOND Self.

How did they achieve this – not through working by themselves... but with others – with Rotarians – with you. That is the true *Magic of Rotary*... when likeminded servants come together for all our common good – when we *Unite for Good*.

We have a very robust awards program in District 6860, led by PDG Pat Cross (Rotary Club of Madison) and PDG Sue Mitchell (Rotary Club of Decatur Daybreak). This year, I invited PDG Bo Porter (Rotary Club of Shades Valley) into the conversation as I realized there was something missing. This team came up with something special for all of us!

We recognize individual awards for Vocational Service, Service Above Self, Leadership, but there was not a category for Lifetime Achievement. As your District Governor, I felt the need to reward those who have given the most.

Therefore... It is very humbling and a great honor that I reveal a new category of awards for Rotary District 6860 and present to you the original inductees...

... The District 6860 HALL OF FAME; now the highest recognition to be awarded to an individual in Rotary District 6860.

To set the stage for all of us, please allow me to share a bit of our history in Rotary District 6860, researched so diligently by Bo Porter.

Rotary, of course, was founded in Chicago in 1905 when a small group of businessmen formed a charitable organization dedicated to serving their community and fostering fellowship among members of their professional community. The growth and development of Rotary in North Alabama began in 1913 with the chartering of The Rotary Club of Birmingham. Extension and formation of new clubs created the need for regional and district groupings of clubs. Initially these groupings included territories far greater than North Alabama. Districts were established in 1915 and were reconfigured periodically as required. For instance, all of Alabama was initially one District until the current configuration of North Alabama was defined in 1949.

So, with this as perspective, I present to you the initial inductees of The Rotary District 6860 Hall of Fame.

We have 2 Categories this year of inductees. Since this is a new award category, and being a Hall of Fame, we need some way to capture the most prestigious Rotarians who have served our District and beyond... our Founders, if you will. I believe you will notice a common theme among these Rotarians; they have either served in the upper echelons of service in Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation or were pioneers for Rotary for Alabama. They were and remain now honored as our Founders' Class of Rotarians.

*Founders' Class – Past Rotary International Presidents / Directors / Foundation Trustees / Pioneers (significant firsts in District 6860)*

The Hall of Fame Founder's Class includes the following Rotarians...

1. Harry B. Wheelock – Rotary Club of Birmingham: Brought Rotary to Alabama in 1913 – our “Paul Harris” of Alabama
2. John E. Shelby – Rotary Club of Birmingham: First in a District Governor like role - Regional Vice President of Rotary, the term used at the time for District Governor
3. Frank E. Spain - Rotary Club of Birmingham: Past Rotary International President: 1951-1952
4. Roy D. Hickman - Rotary Club of Birmingham: Past Rotary International President: 1972-1973
5. Leslie S. Wright - Rotary Club of Birmingham: Past Rotary International Director
6. Glenn E. Estess, Sr - Rotary Club of Shades Valley: Past Rotary International President: 2004-2005
7. Jane Schmalz – Rotary Club of Shades Valley: First Female Club President and First Female District Governor in 6860
8. Kenneth M. Schuppert, Jr. - Rotary Club of Decatur: Past Rotary International Vice President; Rotary International Director; Past Trustee of The Rotary Foundation
9. Mark D. Maloney - Rotary Club of Decatur: Past Rotary International President 2019-2020; Current Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation 2024-2025

Each year we will also induct an Annual Class, starting with this Rotary Year. The first Annual Inductees, the Class of 2025 are:

1. Mary Carol Argo - Rotary Club of Shades Valley: District Governor 2018-2019 and 2022-2023; Assistant Public Image Coordinator, Zone 30 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
2. PP Dennis Sanders - Rotary Club of Madison: Recipient of the Tom Milford Service Above Self Award, District Leadership Award, Rotarian Vocational Service Award, and currently serving numerous consecutive terms as District Communications Officer while simultaneously serving as MidSouth President Elect Training Seminar Communications Officer.

Finally, as much of an honor as it was to unveil this award earlier this month at our Multi-District Conference in Chattanooga, it has been even more special to honor our Inductees of our Founders' Class in the presence of their home Rotary Clubs. I greatly appreciate the family members who were able to attend and help honor both their family's contribution to Rotary and honor our legacy of service in North Alabama. These family members include the following:

- Rotary Club of Birmingham Member George Wheelock: great grand-nephew of Harry Wheelock
- Rotary Club of Birmingham Member Cameron Vowell: granddaughter of Frank Spain
- Rotary Club of Birmingham Member Maggie McDonald: PRIP Frank Spain's great granddaughter
- Rotary Club of Vestavia Hills Member Jon Wright: Les Wright's son
- Rotary Club Member of Shades Valley Member and Past President of The Rotary Club of Birmingham Sunrise: Glenn Estess, Jr., son of PRIP Glenn E. Estess, Sr.
- Elizabeth Wilson: one of the first three female members of The Rotary Club of Shades Valley: daughter of PRIP Glenn E. Estess, Sr.
- Grant Estess: grandson of PRIP Glenn E. Estess, Sr.
- Dick Schmalz: husband of PDG Jane Schmalz, and Wingback for Coach James Ralph "Shug" Jordan during Quarterback Pat Sullivan's Heisman Trophy career at Auburn

I would like to add a special thanks to resident historians of The Rotary Club of Birmingham: Russell Cunningham, Susan Jackson, Mary Alice Carmichael, Mary Carolyn Cleveland; President of the Rotary Club of Decatur, Terri Collins; and Executive Director of The Rotary Club of Shades Valley, Bo Porter for help making all these associations and arrangements for family members to be present to honor their respective family members. You all have my deepest gratitude, and I am already looking forward to next Rotary Year's Inductee Class of 2025-26.

If you would like to learn more about the history of Rotary in Alabama, you are in luck! PDG Bill Petty (Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa) has recently written an article that was published in the 25 April edition of Alabama Heritage Magazine. You can read more about our legacy thanks to Bill:

<https://www.alabamaheritage.com/blog/2025/04/25/from-the-vault-rotary-international-an-alabama-history/>



alabama  
HERITAGE

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: *An Alabama History*

BY WILLIAM PETTY

THE ALABAMA CLUBS' INFLUENCE CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED IN  
ROTARY CLUB—AND STATE—HISTORY.

READ THIS STORY.



**The Top 10 Reasons to Go to Calgary with Rotary**  
(by Past Chair Michael Hayes)



1. The opening ceremony for the Convention is always inspiring!!!
2. The parade of flags for all the Countries in which Rotary has a presence shows the internationality of our organization. It is amazing!!!
3. Seeing all of the people who are wearing the native dress of their country demonstrates the diversity of our organization.
4. Visiting all of the Fellowships in the House of Friendship is a great way to share your interests and hobbies with other Rotarians and an opportunity to learn from them.
5. The general sessions are quite interesting and a good way to catch up on what is happening in our organization.
6. Breakout sessions are learning opportunities, to explore new interests and to begin developing new skills or gaining new knowledge.
7. Get new Rotary attire, replenish your supply of Rotary pins, or shop for items of local interest in the market in the House of Friendship.
8. Oh, and by the way, the Alberta Province of Canada is beautiful, you are very near Banff National Park and the pre and post-Convention tours look phenomenal!!!
9. Explore Rotary Action Groups in the House of Friendship, stop by the Peace Park, and learn about Positive Peace!!!
10. Sign up for next year's Convention, get official pins, and a substantial discount!!!

Speaking of Flags... Did I mention # 2... that I (yes your District Governor David Allgood, not Chair Micheal Hayes) will be a Flag Bearer this year! I haven't been this excited since I did color guards for Bama football games as a freshman cadet. Well OK, since my wedding, or wait, since Will was born... or since my induction as your District



Governor... or wait, when Butler gets inducted in June. Come to Calgary with us... but time is running out!

## 2025 Summer Leadership Seminars

Join us this summer for one of Rotary International Zones 30-31's exciting **Summer Leadership Seminars** designed to inspire, connect, and empower our members!

### 💡 Seminar Focus:

Attendees will create actionable plans to **engage and retain members** by boosting Rotary's **visibility, appeal**, and leveraging the power of our **Foundation**.

### 📅 Seminar Dates & Locations

All seminars are \$60 and include **continental breakfast and lunch**. We especially encourage representation from **Membership, Public Image, and Foundation teams**. All members are welcome!

- **August 2 – Birmingham, AL**  
*Optional Event Friday, August 1:*  
Fellowship dinner at **Mugshots** (participants cover their meal). Free **hospitality room** after dinner.



**2025  
SUMMER  
LEADERSHIP  
SEMINARS**

Discover how to increase membership using the power of Public Image, Foundation, and Membership Toolkits.

Let's build stronger, more vibrant clubs together!

**Rotary**  
Zones 30 & 31

**Open to ALL Club Members**

**LOCATIONS**

Location	Date
St. Louis	July 12
Louisville	July 19
New Orleans	July 26
Birmingham	Aug 2
Oklahoma City	Aug 9

**Together, we will create a customized action plan that**

- ✓ Enhances visibility and appeal
- ✓ Engages and retains members
- ✓ Leverages the power of our Foundation

**REGISTER NOW !! ONLY \$60**

**rizoness30-31.org/events**

Great FUN Optional Events in Each Location  
Friday Night!

Register Here: <https://www.rizoness30-31.org/events/leadership-seminars/>

## Reflections: Multi-District Conference Chattanooga, 2-3 May 2025

Well, we did it! We had the time of our Rotary Life... that is, until the next District event. If you missed it, just come to the next year's Combined District Conference in Auburn when we team up with South Alabama. District Governors Butler Cain (6860) and Bob Cochran (6880) will be looking forward to hosting us before we know it. Trust me, a year goes quick when you're having fun!

I could tell you all about what we did in Chattanooga – but you know better than I do that I already did in advance (just check your spam folders). All I'll do at this point is thank everyone who attended and brought back a nugget of goodness for their respective Clubs. A special thanks goes out to all who helped make this event possible. You know who you are, and the list is too long for this format. I will mention those of you that helped with our Foundation House of Friendship – that made a very festive environment, and I appreciate your service and dedication to ensure we represented our Rotary Foundation so well during the event. You could say there are future Hall of Famers out there that helped pull this off – only time will tell. Thank you to all who helped plan this event for the past three years, those who came in during our final month of promotion, and especially those Rotarians who were at the event helping make it happen. It is truly the Magic of Rotary when something that big goes off unrehearsed... just ask Thomas Yerby and Emerie Germ, our Masters of Ceremony!

Willie Kitchens (of the Impressions) is already in a Hall of Fame, and he left no doubt as to why as we sang with him into his encore at the Westin "Concert Tent" ... rain did not dampen our party at all! It was truly fun learning for all right down to the last horse crossing the line at Churchill Downs – there is nothing quite like the most exciting 2 minutes in sports... especially when you are with Rotarians from Kentucky!

I will mention one programming note. If you did not already know that our RI Director Beth Stubbs is awesome, well, let me tell you how she saved the most important part of our program – the Keynote Address. Without getting into too much detail on how this transpired, we had made arrangements for our Keynote Speaker and President's Representative two years in advance. Due to circumstances well out of anyone's control, our President's Rep could not make the trip from their home country at the last moment. Explaining the circumstances to Director Beth, she did not hesitate to "Tennessee Volunteer." She rolled with the changes and delivered a top-notch closing Keynote with little notice. The next time you see her, wherever it may be, please let her of how much it meant to all of us for her to deliver when needed. She is truly an amazing Rotarian and the three District Governors have been very honored to serve with her as our Director for the past two years. Here's to Beth!

OK... I'll mention two programming notes. Beth and Willie Kitchens were not the only Rock Stars in attendance. A very special thanks to Past Rotary International Vice President Ken Schuppert, Jr., PDG Bill Petty and District International Service Officer Will Ratliff for pulling off an amazing Plenary Session on Rotary Peace Initiatives and Council on Legislation Enactments. Their interaction, combined with PDG Jim Roxlo,

our Rotary Positive Peace Activator, expertly enlightened our audience on developments both on Rotary's peace initiatives, as well as breaking changes to be on the lookout for in RY 25-26 from the Council on Legislation.

Finally – I will release a listing of all Awards for this year in a separate posting. We had a long list of Awards this year, and I am very proud of the work our Clubs have achieved. Well Done 6860!

## Council on Legislation Update

We had great representation this past April during the Council on Legislation from Chair Ken Schuppert, Jr. (Rotary Club of Decatur) and Carol Argo (Rotary Club of Shades Valley). Carol Argo, as Chair of our District Leadership Plan Review Committee, is currently in the process of incorporating these updates into how our District conducts business. In order for you to have access to all of the updates, I share the below release from RI Club and District Support:

... Every three years, Rotarians meet at the Council on Legislation (COL) to review and vote on proposed changes to the documents that govern Rotary. This important event took place in Chicago from 13-17 April 2025, and representatives from every district around the world approved a variety of proposals to move Rotary forward.

To help you identify and understand the key changes, which take effect on 1 July, we are sharing this helpful reference guide: [2025 COL Essential Changes for Clubs and Districts](#). You may also [access the official Report of Action](#) on My Rotary in the coming weeks as well as updated [governance documents](#) as they become available later this year.

With recent changes approved by the 2025 COL, now is the perfect time to review and update your club bylaws. Forming a dedicated committee to undertake this review will ensure that your bylaws are consistent with these new changes while also reflecting your unique club culture.

As you consider who you are and who you aspire to be, you can also set meaningful goals in Rotary Club Central, not just for the year ahead, but for the next three years. This proactive approach will help you align your long-term vision with your operational practices, fostering growth and cohesion within your club.

If you would like to learn more about the COL – you can review this link:

<https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/12At5QjLwd1t3yuDMcNt1Wo6KHZOdD>



## Rotary Youth Exchange turns 50 at RI, and Revitalizes in 6860!

I am proud to announce developments in District 6860's progress toward the reestablishment of a Youth Exchange Program. Youth Exchange Officer Lisa Abbot (Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville) has been both diligent and instrumental in advancing necessary Multi-District arrangements and transfers from SCRYE to O-E this year, and we are poised to have a Youth Exchange Program that will be able to accept our first international students in academic year 2026-27, following necessary training this summer. Bill Armstrong (Rotary Club of the Greater Shoals Area), our Youth Protection Officer, has also been instrumental in these advancements. Please thank both of these outstanding Rotarians when next you see them.

It has been 50 years since Rotary Youth Exchange became an official program of Rotary International. This program connects cultures, inspires service, and creates friendships that last a lifetime. Use the video above to show what it's like to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange — for the students and their families, host families, and friends. Show it at Rotary events, school or community gatherings, and student activity fairs. You can also share the [YouTube version of the video](#) on your club's website and social media channels. Captions are available in your preferred language.

## From RI: Tips for Closing Out Your Rotary Year – For Club Presidents

Thank you for your leadership so far this year, and congratulations on almost completing your term as club president!

Here are some tips to make the fourth quarter go smoothly:

- Plan for the future by setting three-year goals in [Rotary Club Central](#). [Update the goals](#) for this year and work with the incoming officers to set goals for the next year. Don't forget to celebrate key accomplishments with the members of your club.
- Work with the incoming club president to report other incoming officers through [My Rotary](#) (refer to [How to Manage Club Officers](#)) or through your [club management system](#).
- Review the enactments that were approved at the [Council on Legislation](#) in April 2025. Now is a good time to update your club bylaws to align with all of Rotary's [governance documents](#).

## Disaster Preparedness for Rotary

Special thanks to AG Paul Golden for serving as our District 6860 Disaster Relief Chair. Paul stands by to answer any questions you may have concerning potential relief from a wide-ranging array of disasters. To give some background on this topic, I offer the following from the Chair of the Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group, Bob Stuart:

... One word can carry such life-altering results - disaster. Three months into my term of office as an RI Director, I was confronted with this word courtesy of Hurricane Katrina. It can happen to anyone. Why me? Why you? Yes, it could happen to you!

We in DNA RAG (Disaster Network of Assistance - Rotary Action Group) along with the 24 other Rotary Action Groups are there to assist you!! We are a vital part of the "family of Rotary."

We can help you:

- organize, prepare, and train your fellow Rotarians
- communicate the immediate impact, your needs, your projects, and your contact information to the rest of your Rotary family across the globe
- gain financial support and grants for immediate, short and long term rebuilding

We in DNA RAG encourage you to:

- drop by our booth 435 at the Calgary Convention House of Friendship
- visit our website at <https://dna-rag.com>
- appoint a District Disaster Chair with a functioning committee

### Zoom Info - NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Topic: Disaster Network of Assistance - Rotary Action Group Annual General Meeting

Time: Jun 17, 2024 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) - (UTC - 04)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82148555413?pwd=oMsacxIIWNwgETMKRj1EfA3lFbSiFJ.1>

Meeting ID: 821 4855 5413

Passcode: 259552

Yes, YOU are a part of a magnificent Rotary family who are there for you. Join

us and never be hesitant to see how we in DNA-RAG can assist you. JOIN US and know that we will remain there to assist you no matter what comes your way

We all experience - “The Magic of Rotary”

Unite for Good,  
Bob Stuart  
Chair, Disaster Network of Assistance - Rotary Action Group

## Growing Membership

Rotary members and friends from across the globe will soon gather for the 2025 [Rotary International Convention](#) from 21 to 25 June in Calgary, Canada. The convention promises to be an extraordinary opportunity to connect, gain insights from distinguished speakers, and share hope.

If you attend, don't miss these breakout sessions about growing membership, engaging members, and enhancing public image:

- Key Steps to 25% Annual Membership Growth
- Attracting the Next Generation of Rotarians
- ChatGPT and AI: Creating Efficiency and Engagement
- What the Public Thinks of Rotary and Why it Matters
- Impactful Change: Membership Strategies

Find these sessions and many more on the [full list of breakout sessions \(PDF\)](#).

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## Growing membership increases the good we can do

Share the gift of Rotary with your friends, family, neighbors, and acquaintances by inviting them to a Rotary activity. Tell them why you joined, and let them know about the connections and impact that they can make through Rotary and how they can grow. Visit our [Membership Society virtual gallery](#) to view the members who have sponsored 25 or more new members, and discover [strategies for sponsoring new members](#).

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## Design your Rotary experience

Rotary members have many opportunities to make connections, participate in meaningful service, become leaders, and expand their perspective. [Designing Your Rotary Experience](#) describes the options members have for personalizing their Rotary experience and getting involved in ways that matter to them. Share this guide with new members who are still learning about Rotary and other members interested in new ways to get involved.

## **Save the Date Event Calendar... AND THEN THERE WAS ONE!**

**21-25 Jun 25:** Rotary International Convention - Calgary, Alberta – more on this in the June Newsletter!

Again, Rotarians of 6860... thank you for all you do! You are both an inspiration and an amazing source of good in this world. I am very humbled to be in an organization alongside all of you.

Regards,  
David

[David W. Allgood](#)

**District Governor 2024-25**

**Rotary District 6860**