

Rotary District 6860 Enters the Event Horizon

We are truly at the brink of a very eventful and exciting few months of Rotary events and gatherings across our District. It all begins with pioneering efforts to eradicate a dreaded disease in January, all the way to Rotary's grandest stage in Calgary, Alberta at the International Convention in June... and it all starts now! I look forward to seeing you and fellow Rotarians from your Club at one if not all of the following events. It will truly be a year to remember – join us in celebrating *the Magic of Rotary* all of you continue to make happen:

31 Jan – Operation Wipe Out Summit - The Harbert Center, Birmingham, AL

Rotarians of District 6860 are pleased to collaborate with the Rotary Clubs of Birmingham and Lafayette, as well as other partners, in the effort to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health issue in Alabama. Alabama is currently the first and only state in the nation with such a plan. Due to the promotion by our District Rotarians, Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama's State Health Officer, initiated Alabama's program in 2023. If you received your Rotary Magazine last month, you may have noticed the 8-page article detailing the efforts in our District. For further information, please visit:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/elimination-round>

The Rotary Club of Birmingham is hosting a summit on 31 January 2025, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Harbert Center. This event aims to equip Rotary Club members, public health leaders, healthcare professionals, non-profits, and advocates with tools and support for involvement.

Register as soon as you are able, since space is limited, and we would like to prioritize attendance from Rotarians -<https://www.birminghamrotary.org/operation-wipeout-summit>

For more information, visit www.operationwipeout.org (see tab "get involved" and examples of how everyone can get involved) or reach out to our Summit organizer, Dr. Isabel Scarinci at iscarinci@uabmc.edu

I hope to see you January 31st in Birmingham, and together, we can END cervical cancer!

5 Feb – The Rotary Foundation Dinner, Renaissance Shoals Resort & Spa, Florence, AL

We look forward to being together with you and Rotarians from around the District at our upcoming Rotary Foundation Dinner, as we honor our benefactors that enable Rotary's amazing efforts both around the world and here at home. We will have an engaging program and will be honored to have Trustee Chair of The Rotary Foundation, Mark Maloney, as our keynote speaker.

Our reception will begin on 5 February at 4:30 PM, dinner at 5:30 PM at the Renaissance Shoals Resort and Spa, formerly the Marriott Shoals Hotel Convention Center, Florence, Alabama.

You can register online at DACdb or contact [Holly Trawick](#).

Registration: <https://dacdb.com/Register4/index.cfm?EventID=77806139>

While we will not have blocked rooms for this event, a recommendation for overnight stays is the conveniently located Renaissance Shoals Resort and Spa, on site: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mslmc-marriott-shoals-hotel-and-spa/overview/>

Please join us as we celebrate our great Foundation and those who ensure The Magic of Rotary continues.

20 Feb – Grant Training, Gardendale Civic Center, Gardendale, AL: 9 – 11 AM

Unleash the power and resources of The Rotary Foundation for your Club at District Grant Training. This 2 hour seminar will fulfill the RI requirement for your Club to qualify for District Grant funding, so register now on our [DACdb District Calendar](#).

20 Feb – [Pre PETS](#), Gardendale Civic Center, Gardendale, AL – 11 AM – 4 PM

For our Presidents Elect – the premier primer to your Rotary year starts here – join us for an informative day, led by your year's District Governor, Butler Cain. Butler will be fresh off the heels of International Assembly, and will relay the charge from Rotary International President Elect Mário César Martins de Camargo. Look forward to a very hands on and informative day.

21 Feb – [District 6860 Mid-Year Conference](#), Gardendale Civic Center, Gardendale, AL

Join us for a celebration of Rotary in the District as we hear updates from our Clubs on their initiatives for Global Grants and conduct our awards ceremony recognizing the outstanding work of both our Clubs and individual Rotarians. We will also have deep dives into best practices to increase membership, enhance public image, and other exciting Rotary topics that will help improve your Club experience. Our theme this year will center on Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick's priority of peace building, and we will host the NewGen Peace Builders Executive Director, Patricia Shafer as our keynote speaker. Ms. Shafer will focus on New Gen's work with Birmingham inner-city schools, and how their peace initiatives have led to life changing outcomes for children in our state.

For our service project this year, please bring your favorite peace related book... we will present to Ms. Shafer as she helps build a peace library for school children in our area.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

In preparation for our peace related theme at the Mid-Year Conference, I've included the below links and resources as a primer – I hope you find them useful:

Recruit Rotary Peace Fellow candidates

Rotary and Rotaract clubs can work with their district Rotary Foundation chair or Rotary Peace Fellowship subcommittee chair to [recruit and recommend candidates for Rotary Peace Fellowships](#). Each year, the Foundation awards up to 130 fellowships to experienced peacebuilders from around the world so they can study at one of our Rotary Peace Centers. The fellows can earn a master's degree or an advanced professional development certificate in disciplines related to peace and development.

Applications will be accepted from 1 February through 15 May. Peace fellows will begin their studies in 2026 at partner universities in Australia, Japan, Sweden, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Find out [who is eligible and how they can apply](#). The Foundation pays for tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and internship and field-study expenses. Clubs and districts do not need to provide funding in order to recommend fellowship candidates. [Use this referral form](#) to have information sent to potential candidates.

Since the Rotary Peace Centers program began in 2002, more than 1,800 fellows

have graduated from our programs. They are working in peace and development in more than 140 countries.

Reimagine Peace - 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference

Immerse yourself in three days of inspiring conversations and global connections at Rotary's 2025 presidential peace conference. The theme is [Healing in a Divided World](#). Join RI President Stephanie A. Urchick in Istanbul, Türkiye, 20-22 February, to explore groundbreaking ideas and shape a more peaceful future.

If interested or for more information, contact [Bill Petty](#) or [Will Ratliff](#).

Elevate Your Club's Service with these RI Resources

Service is central to Rotary. Two new handbooks offer guidance on planning projects with long-term community benefits. They provide a framework, tips, and advice for creating lasting change.

- The [Conducting Community Assessments handbook](#) (formerly known as Community Assessment Tools) guides you in working with community members to identify their priorities.
- The [Rotary Impact Handbook](#) will help you measure your projects' success and use concrete data to demonstrate progress and results.

Again, thank you for all you do for Rotary in your Clubs, and I look forward to celebrating that great work soon at an upcoming event!

See you soon,

David

David W. Allgood
District Governor 2024-25
Rotary District 6860