



Rotary Club of Covington Bulletin

<http://www.RotaryCovington.org>

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Club Leaders



[Thomas Kephart](#)
President



[Bryan Fazio](#)
President-Elect



[Lauren Poynter](#)
Secretary



[Clay Hodges](#)
Treasurer



[Jackie Gutknecht](#)
Public Relations Chair



[Tarrence T. Houston](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

[E. Wayne Pugh](#)

Rotary Program 3-30-21 - District Governor Tina D. Fischlin

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, March 29, 2021



For over 20 years, Tina has been enabling programs around the world to maximize impact and reach out to those most in need. A native of Reidsville, Georgia, USA. She attended Georgia Southern University. After graduation, she moved to Atlanta and continued her education and worked in the financial sector and eventually made her way into real estate. She is a licensed agent with Coldwell Banker Lake Oconee Realty serving the Lake Oconee area. In addition, she continues to operate Barefoot Mountain Farms providing Fraser fir Christmas trees and greenery to schools and civic clubs throughout the Southeast. An advocate for reforestation she established the DavisHollcroft Family Forestry Scholarship at the University of Georgia. This scholarship is presented annually to a student studying at UGA's Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources.

Her volunteer work with organizations across the globe addresses the need for clean water, disease prevention, health care and literacy projects. In 2008, Tina joined Alliance for Smiles, a Rotary founded volunteer-based nonprofit, mobilizing hundreds of medical and non-medical volunteers from all over the world. Their work advances health care, trains local medical professional, and delivers surgical care for patients with cleft lip and cleft palate in their communities.

Tina is a proud member of the Rotary Club of Greene & Putnam Counties where she served as Club President in 2011-12 and currently serves as the clubs International Service Co-Chair. Active at the District Level, she has served on the finance committee, Assistant Governor and the District's International Service Chair. She is a graduate of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), a Major Donor, a GRSP Will Watt Fellow, a Benefactor, a member of the Bequest Society and Paul Harris Society.

Tina received Rotary's highest honor, the Service Above Self, an international award which recognizes less than 150 individuals annually who demonstrate their commitment to helping others.

Tina is married to Mike Fischlin, a former Major League baseball player who continues to live his passion as a sports agent with the Boras Corporation. In her spare time, she enjoys running, golf, spending time with family and friends and serving in her community and around the world. Tina, Mike and their dog, Sophia Loren reside in Greensboro, Georgia.

VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting will be held at Covington First United Methodist Church at 12:00pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting starts at 12:20 PM

Topic: Tuesday Rotary Meeting: District Governor Tina D. Fischlin

Time: Mar 30, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://zoom.us/j/93587555304?pwd=eC9UNUk2MkswOUUpDOFdBWHE4SzB2Zz09>

icsToken=98tyKuCrqzMIH9GQsxmDRowGyqgKO_wmCvejbd5mhfaVw13WwWjYUUA7h8AdLE

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93587555304?pwd=eC9UNUk2MkswOUUpDOFdBWHE4SzB2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 935 8755 5304

Passcode: 523404

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,93587555304#,,,,*523404# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,93587555304#,,,,*523404# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 935 8755 5304

Passcode: 523404

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/93587555304?pwd=eC9UNUk2MkswOUUpDOFdBWHE4SzB2Zz09>

March & April Birthdays & Anniversaries

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, March 1, 2021



GRSP Chair



[Brad Bettis](#)
Club Director



[Douglas E. Bolton](#)
Club Admin Chair



[Joseph Davidson](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr



[Ricky Mock](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[John King](#)
iPast President

Birthdays

Ricky Mock
March 6th
Douglas E. Bolton
March 11th
Adrienne Vinson Waddey
March 19th
Bradley Stewart
March 24th
Ternard L Turner
March 26th
Philip Byrd
March 30th
Jody E. Smith
April 16th
Jerry Roseberry
April 21st
Stacey Lanier Cotton
April 24th
James R. Carter
April 26th

Wedding Anniversaries

Stacey Lanier Cotton
March 8th
Joseph Davidson
April 1st
Brian James Burgoyne
April 14th
Carter Rogers
April 22nd

Club Member Anniversaries

William McCart
04-01-1970
51 Years
Stuart E. Hamilton
04-01-1985
36 Years
Steve Whatley
03-03-1998
23 Years
Brad Bettis
03-15-2002
19 Years
Brook Collins
04-15-2004
17 Years
Bradley Stewart
04-01-2010
11 Years
Salisa Bacon
04-23-2013
8 Years
Brian James Burgoyne

March Birthdays

Ricky Mock 3/6
Doug Bolton 3/11
Adrienne Vinson Waddey 3/19
Brad Stewart 3/24
Ternard Turner 3/26
Philip Byrd 3/30

March Anniversaries

Stacey & Lana Cotton 3/8

March Member Anniversaries

Brad Bettis 19 Years
Brian Burgoyne 7 Years
Phillip Byrd 7 Years
Bryan Fazio 7 Years
John King 5 Years
Lauren Poynter 7 Years
Greg Proffitt 1 Year
Steve Whatley 23 Years

April Birthdays

Jody Smith 4/16
Jerry Roseberry 4/21
Stacey Cotton 4/24
Pete Carter 4/26

April Anniversaries

Joe & Ganeva Davidson 4/1
Brian & Melissa Burgoyne 4/14
Carter & Julie Rogers 4/22

April Membership Anniversaries

Covington Rotary / Rotary
Joshua Aaron 2 Years / 2 Years
Eric Adcock 2 Years / 2 Years
Salisa Bacon 8 Years / 8 Years
Patrick Carmichael 11 Years / 26 Years
Brook Collins 17 Years / 17 Years
Stuart Hamilton 36 Years / 36 Years
Bill McCart 51 Years / 51 Years
Brad Stewart 11 Years / 11 Years
Ternard Turner 2 Years / 2 Years

Rotary Club of Covington Future Programs and events

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, March 29, 2021

Meetings are being held at Covington First United Methodist Church at 12:00pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting starts at 12:20 PM

03-30-2021 - District Governor Tina D. Fischlin

04-06-2021 - Duane Ford - Newton Trails

04-13-2021 - Phil Johnson - Safety of our Voting Process

04-20-2021 - Chief Michael Conner - Newton Co Fire Services

04-27-2021 - David Kent - Piedmont Newton Hospital

05-04-2021 - TBA

05-11-2021 - Public Safety Employee of the Year

05-18-2021 - TBA

05-25-2021 - Nurse of the Year

February Rotary Anniversary (2-14-39)/Valentines Banquet (Postponed)

4-22 to 25-2021 - District Conference - Jekyl Island - CANCELED

05-02-2021 - Rotary Cars of the Past Car Show - CANCELED - NO PERMITS AVAILABLE FROM THE CITY

May - Newton County Schools Top Ten Banquet

[Read More](#)

2021 District 6910 Virtual Conference

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, March 15, 2021

03-06-2014
7 Years
Bryan Fazio
03-11-2014
7 Years
Lauren Poynter
03-30-2014
7 Years
Philip Byrd
03-30-2014
7 Years
John King
03-08-2016
5 Years
Ternard L Turner
04-16-2019
2 Years
Eric Adcock
04-23-2019
2 Years
Joshua Aaron
04-23-2019
2 Years
Madison Riley Graham
03-10-2020
1 Year
Greg Proffitt
03-24-2020
1 Year



VIRTUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rotary District 6910 | APRIL 23-24, 2021

FEATURING

- Virtual Activities
- **Dynamic Speakers**
- Digital House of Friendship
- **Beach Towel Contest Voting**
- Club Social Opportunities
- **District Awards**

LEARN MORE



\$25 PER ROTARIAN
\$15 FOR ROTARACTORS, INTERACTORS, & GUESTS

Hosted on **Ukova**

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1ST

Follow us rotarydistrict6910.org

   

Our District Conference Planning Committee is hard at work transitioning our programs to a digital format. We are so excited to be able to bring you two days of great virtual programming that will offer fun, fellowship and celebration. We can't wait to showcase the amazing accomplishments of our 2020-21 Rotary year!

The new registration portal is under development and should go live any day, so keep a close watch for all of the latest on registration and conference events at <http://www.rotarydistrict6910.org/district-conference-2021-virtual.php>

Be watching your inbox for a special eBlast unveiling all of the exciting conference activities. More news to come soon!

District Conference Registration <http://www.rotarydistrict6910.org/district-conference-2021-virtual.php>

WGHS grad sparks water project in South Pacific, Rotarians unite for cause

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, March 29, 2021



Webster Groves High School graduate Lonita Benson (second from right) with some of the students from Houma's Government Primary School in the Kingdom of Tonga. Benson taught at the school while serving in the Peace Corps. She and the children dressed alike for a singing contest in the village

An elementary school on an island in the South Pacific now has a supply of clean water thanks to the efforts of a Webster Groves High School graduate and the generosity of the Rotary Club of Webster Groves.

Although its meetings have been virtual over the past year, the Rotary Club of Webster Groves has managed to carry out Rotary International's global mission of service above self at home and abroad.

In 2020, the Rotary Club of Webster Groves funded a total of \$5,600 for three desperately needed water tanks for an elementary school in the Kingdom of Tonga. The club collaborated with the Tonga Rotary Club of Nukualofa to complete the project in the Village of Houma, which is located on one of the 169 islands comprising the Polynesian archipelago of Tonga.



Lonita Benson, a 2014 graduate of Webster Groves High School, helps a student at the school where she taught in the Village of Houma

The international project came about at the request of Lonita Benson, a 2014 graduate of Webster Groves High School, who was serving in Houma with the Peace Corps. Benson joined the Peace Corps after graduating from Mizzou in 2018 with a degree in International Studies and an emphasis in peace studies. She suspects she was assigned to Tonga because her mother had been born there; her parents met in Tonga when her father arrived as a Peace Corps volunteer during the 1980s.

Benson soon found herself teaching school in Houma, which had the lowest standardized test scores in all of Tonga. Although Houma's Government Primary School had two water tanks in their compound, only one of them stored potable water. Because the students lacked a sufficient supply of clean water, classes were frequently dismissed after lunch, and the 50 children were sent home.

It wasn't long before Benson realized that closing the school in the afternoon was a primary reason for the poor scholastics, so she decided to do something about it. After attending several grant writing workshops, she prepared and submitted more than a dozen grant applications to fund the needed tanks, but all were denied.



A student stands by one of the newly installed tanks that provides her school in Houma with clean water.

When she then reached out to the Rotary Club of Nuku^{alofa}, members suggested that she contact the rotary club in her hometown of Webster Groves. Benson's email to the Rotary Club of Webster Groves resulted in two serendipitous relationships, and shortly thereafter, the project between the two clubs.

The webmaster of Webster's club put Benson in touch with Steve LaBarge, who had watched her grow up at Annunciation Church in Webster. LaBarge then introduced her to Rod Cooper, whose wife had been a peace Corps volunteer in Tonga years before.

Both members of the Webster club's International Projects Committee, LaBarge and Cooper presented the idea of helping out with the Tonga water tank project at the club's board meeting in November 2019. The Rotary Club of Webster Groves in January 2020 then approved \$2,500 to fund the first 12,000-liter tank. Cooper immediately contacted the Rotarians in Nuku^{alofa}, who agreed to oversee all operational aspects associated with purchasing and installing the tanks.

Following the successful installation of the first tank, the Rotary Club of Webster Groves sent \$3,100 to the Rotary Club of Nuku^{alofa} in December 2020 for two additional 5,000-liter tanks.



Rotarians from the Nuku'alofa Club unload construction supplies needed for installation of the water tanks.

The three new tanks have a total capacity of 22,000 liters. Although their primary role is to collect and store rain water for the school, any surplus water can also be used to augment the existing tanks serving the village, which has a population of roughly 250 people.

After the first tank's installation was underway in January 2020, Benson decided to take some vacation time to go backpacking in California. It was during that trip, however, that she learned her mother, Elitisi, was very ill with an unknown infection. Benson then flew home to Webster Groves to be with her mother, who was diagnosed with COVID-19 and died in April. Elitisi Benson was a teacher's aid for several years at the Walter Ambrose Family Center preschool in Webster Groves.

Benson still has about a year left in her Peace Corps stint, but hasn't been allowed to return to Tonga due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. She's been living in Breckenridge, Colorado, for the past six months and working remotely for St. Louis-based Civitas, a nonprofit that is best known for its Model UN program.

She is scheduled to start law school at Loyola of Chicago this fall, and has plans to attend Loyola's campus in Rome next spring.

◆ If she ever returns to Houma, she will find the three water tanks she worked so diligently to secure, ◆ said Ann McReynolds, current public relations chair for the Rotary Club of Webster Groves. ◆ Hopefully, she will also find the children in school for the entire day! ◆

Founded in 1924, the Rotary Club of Webster Groves is the oldest Rotary Club in St. Louis County and one of 35,000 clubs worldwide. The 62 club members take pride in their volunteer work both here and abroad, raising funds primarily through the club's pancake festivals and trivia nights. Although the club's in-person meetings are still on hold, members continue to meet virtually and look forward to when they can resume lunch meetings at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Webster Groves, visit webstergrovesrotary.org or contact Ann McReynolds at ARMcR@arm-mra.com or 314-960-0560.

Rwamagana: Rotary Club donates to vulnerable children

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, March 29, 2021



A total of 1,500 vulnerable children aged between 7 and 12 in the Eastern Province have been given mattresses, bedsheets and school materials by Rotary Club Kigali Virunga. The donation was made on Sunday, March 28.

The event was also attended by the Ambassador of the United States to Rwanda, Peter Vrooman, who is also a Rotarian.



(L-R) Rotary Club Kigali Virunga official, US Ambassador Vrooman and Rwamagana Mayor Mbonyumvunyi.

The materials were donated by Sleeping Children Around the World, a Canadian organisation, and distributed in partnership with Rotary Club Kigali Virunga.

The kits provided include mattress, blankets, bedsheets, basin, school uniforms, notebooks, shoes, bags, facemasks and underwear.

◆When my daughter told me about it, she was happy and she asked me to come here to collect the kits. The materials we received are important to my daughters' studies and wellbeing. I usually buy school uniforms once every three years, it was just not easy. We thank the donors,◆ declared Salaama Bigenimana, a mother.

She added that when one offers a helping hand to someone they boost their confidence.

◆The items will improve our hygiene.◆ Christine Mukagasana, from Karutimbo Village, Cyanya Cell, Kigabiro Sector.



Rwamagana District Mayor Radjab Mbonyumuvunyi said the donation will contribute to the improved performance of the children in school.

Jennifer Ingabire, former president of Rotary Club Kigali Virunga, explained that while she was president of Rotary Club, a Canadian organisation named Sleeping Children Around the World asked them to work with them as overseas volunteering partner in the distribution of the materials to children.

Rotary Club is an international organisation founded in 1905 with purpose to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service

Among notable achievements of the organisation in Rwanda are Kigali Public Library and shelters for cancer patients established at Rwanda Military Hospital in Kigali.

There are five Rotary clubs in Rwanda, with each club having between 20-30 members on average.



RI President's March Message

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, March 1, 2021



Holger Knaack

President 2020-21

March 2021

As someone who knows firsthand the great leadership potential of Rotaractors, I always look forward to World Rotaract Week, which we are celebrating from 8 to 14 March. Rotaractors are the focus of all three of my presidential conferences this year, and I was proud when, two years ago, the Council on Legislation voted to elevate Rotaract by including Rotaract clubs as members of Rotary International. Before that, the Council had already made dual membership possible, and shortly after, the Board of Directors decided to do away with Rotaract's age limits.

But we are only just embarking on our journey together. Partnering effectively doesn't happen by itself. It requires both sides to be open and to understand the value of cross-generational alliances. Louie De Real, a dual member of Rotaract and Rotary, explains.

Joint virtual meetings have helped Rotaractors introduce Rotarians to new ideas and tools, pioneering unique ways for clubs to collaborate. In the case of pandemic and disaster response, Rotaract clubs used social media to coordinate efforts, drive information, and fundraise, while Rotary clubs used their networks and resources to amplify support, provide logistics, and bring the goods and services to communities.

Rotaractors' innovative virtual engagement and professional development activities inspired Rotarians to support and follow suit. The pandemic made Rotaract clubs realize that we can immediately connect and partner with Rotary clubs through virtual platforms. With constant collaboration, we realize that Rotary and Rotaract indeed complement each other that we are part of a single organization with shared goals.

Both sides add value. Rotarians can be mentors and service partners to Rotaractors, while Rotaractors can demonstrate to Rotarians that difficult jobs can be simplified and limitations can be surpassed through digital approaches. This synergy motivates Rotaractors to become future Rotarians: I joined Rotary because Rotarians gave me memorable membership experiences through inspirational moments of collaboration. I needed to be a Rotarian to inspire Rotaractors the same way, now and in the future.

That same synergy leads Rotarians to realize that while Rotaractors may have a different culture, we all share a common vision of uniting people to take action. Rotaract's unique ways of doing things serve as inspiration for innovation, helping Rotary increase its ability to adapt to future challenges. Rotarians and Rotaractors will build the future together, so let's start today.

I see no difference between a Rotary club and a Rotaract club, except perhaps for the average age!

Many Rotarians still view Rotaract as our youth organization, but I see it differently. For me, they are part of us, and they are like us. To be successful together, we need to have mutual respect to see each other as equals. Let's see Rotaractors for who they really are: students and young leaders, but also successful managers and entrepreneurs who are capable of planning, organizing, and managing a Rotary institute including breakout sessions in five languages as they did in Berlin in 2014.

As we take this journey together, let's remember the strengths of Rotary and Rotaract. And, as Louie says, let's get started right away in building the future together. In doing so, we open endless opportunities for our organization.

News Worth Celebrating

By DG Tina D. Fischlin on Saturday, March 6, 2021

Happy March, Rotary District 6910!

As we head into the 3rd month of 2021, we have a lot to be thankful for. Most importantly, many Rotary members in our District have received or are beginning to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. I love how almost every club I visit has a Happy Dollar announcement from a Rotarian who just received their first or second dose. This is news worth celebrating! We aren't out of the woods yet though mask wearing, handwashing and social distancing are still the keys to keeping ourselves and each other safe.

March is Water, Sanitation & Hygiene month. Did you know that 2,200 children are dying every day from a lack of access to clean water? Clean water, safe sanitation and healthy hygiene are basic human needs, but millions of people throughout the world including in our own communities do not have access to resources to meet these basic needs. Rotarian Suchet Loois has an update in this newsletter on HANWASH and how the District is supporting these efforts.

We continue to open the doors of opportunities with our Feed 10 Million Meal Challenge. At press time, we will have provided 1,477,584 meals this Rotary year!

From the Rotary Club of Athens, Rotarian Sarah McKinney shared the following story:

At 8pm last night, I received a call from a local pastor that the food distribution they had planned for today fell through. They had planned for a USDA truckload of commodities, and due to logistics, the trucking company cancelled. She needed help to make good on her promise to feed neighbors near the Church. I sent Richard Boone and Sherry Anderson at the Food Bank an urgent email to help. At this VERY moment, they are loading a truckful of Farmers to Families (and more) from our Rotary Clubs and headed over to be the heroes (Food Bank) to the heroes (Church) to feed our neighbors."

Rotary Rocks. The Food Banks Rocks. Our neighbors Rock. A little Friday morning tear doesn't feel too bad. Bless you all.

Sarah McKinney, President/CEO Athens Area Community Foundation

Keep up the good work Rotary District 6910 Rotarians!

From I will echo Sarah's encouraging words: KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, Rotary District 6910 Rotarians!
-DG Tina



Pictured left to right: Richard Boone (Food Bank NEGA); Sarah McKinney, Rotary Club of Athens; President Carl Blount, Rotary Club of Athens; District Governor Nominee Gerry Taylor, Classic City of Athens Rotary Club.

HANWASH Update

By Suchet L. Loois on Saturday, March 6, 2021



The many operational and monetary challenges involved in the successful implementation of the Haiti National Clean Water Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy, more commonly known to Rotarians as HANWASH, continues to mount in the COVID environment. The Rotary focus in March is Water and Sanitation, so we asked our District 6910 HANWASH Chairperson, Dr. Suchet Loois, to provide our members a current update on the program. [Read More](#)

Great Service Project Ideas for Water and Sanitation

By Schelly Tennant Marlatt on Wednesday, February 24, 2021

March is Water and Sanitation Month in the Rotary World. We want to provide all of our clubs in District 6910 with ideas on how your group can get involved and help to protect our waterways and the environment (click below to read more). [Read More](#)





Make Plans Now to Attend Virtual District Conference

By Paige W Havens on Wednesday, February 24, 2021



VIRTUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rotary  **APRIL 23-24, 2021**
District 6910

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Be watching your inbox for a special eBlast unveiling all of the exciting conference activities. More news to come soon!

Rotary Has Heart: Feed10Million Update

By Randy Redner on Monday, March 1, 2021



DISTRICT 6910 ROTARIANS SHOWED A LOT OF HEART IN FEBRUARY ♦ LET ME COUNT THE WAYS!

- ♦ Provided 462,004 meals in February ♦ That's an average of 115,000 meals a week
- ♦ Surpassed our 1 million meal challenge from DG Tina ♦ Did it in just over 7 months
- ♦ As of February 28, we provided 1,320,226 meals provided
- ♦ Set a new goal of 2 million meals by June 30

For the latest update from D6910 Feed10Million Chair, Randy Redner, click the read more link.

[Read More](#)

Leadership Spotlight: Seth Robison

By Paige W Havens on Monday, March 1, 2021



As we continue our monthly leadership spotlight on Rotarians that volunteer to take on challenges and responsibilities at the district level, this month we'd like to introduce you to Seth Robison, from the Rotary Club of Athens. Pictured above: Seth and Haley with their son Dean celebrating his 3rd Birthday. Dean had so much fun, he now asks them weekly when he can have another birthday! [Read More](#)

C.A.R.T. Update

By Gene H. Windham on Friday, March 5, 2021



Click on the read more link below to see the most recent update from D6910 C.A.R.T. Chair, Gene Windham. [Read More](#)

What's Your Club's PPP (Post-Pandemic Plan)?

Sunday, February 28, 2021

By Peter Gleichman
District Community Service Chair



As we approach the one-year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the distribution of three approved vaccines, we are beginning to see in the distance "the light at the end of the tunnel." Our Rotary clubs can begin to imagine meeting again in person. But will we resume meeting only in person and leave the virtual meetings behind? Or will we incorporate some of the lessons we learned and opportunities that arose during the pandemic?

[Read More](#)