

Rotary Club of East Arlington



Sunday, March 10, 2024



Club Meeting

East Arlington
Meets at Blue Sky Golf
Club
1700 Monument Rd
Jacksonville, FL
32225-2807
Time: Thursday at
07:30 AM

Events

March 12th
[East Arlington-
School Advisory
Council - Terry
Park](#)

March 14th
[East Arlington
Weekly Club
Meeting 2nd and
4th Thursday](#)

March 16th
[East Arlington -
March Tree Hill
Nature Center
Service](#)

March 28th
[East Arlington
Weekly Club
Meeting 2nd and
4th Thursday](#)

Club Leaders



**Stephanie
Danielle
Langford**
President



**James Oliver
Smith Jr.**
President-
Elect
Secretary
Vice President

Q1 President's Letter

Wow!!! I cannot believe how fast the time goes by! We are already at the end of the first quarter & into the second quarter of our 2023-24 Rotary Year... Creating Hope in the World!

The first thing I want to do is to thank all the members of the Rotary Club of East Arlington for a great first 3 months of the year! I also want to thank all the friends of Rotary, all the supporters in our fund raisers, all our community partners, and all the services who allowed us to use their platforms to make a positive difference in East Arlington, Jacksonville, and beyond. This is the first time I have been a president of anything, so I want to make sure I extend my humble gratitude for all leaders in our club and in Rotary 6970 for guiding me along the way, as president, too.

We have made amazing strides in the past 3 months, in fund raising, service projects, socials, membership, youth services, and District 6970 events. Here is a quick overview of what we have done so far. Membership – we lost two members in the first week of the year. But we are already well on our way to making up for that. We have started working through a MAP (Membership Action Plan) with District’s help as well as guidance from a Zone MAP Ambassador, our very own Sonja Jones! Mike Selah, Sandy Rogers, and Kim Greenwood were key players updating East Arlington’s new member documents and drawing up the MAP for our club.

In addition to MAP, our newest member and first to be inducted in the Rotary International year of 2023-24 is Jimmy Casello. He is new to Jacksonville from Pittsburg. He has only been here for a few months. His work in golf brought him to Sunny Florida, his position with Dale Carnegie brought him to Jacksonville. Luck us! We are pleased to have Jimmy on board. As far as Rotary Club of East Arlington historians have recorded, Jimmy Casello is also the first member to be inducted by our presiding district governor during the Governor meeting! Congratulations and WELCOME Jimmy!

Service Projects – Since July 1 we have completed five service projects. 1) Phase 2 of the Terry Parker Teacher’s Lounge painting project. 2) Brooks Adaptive Sports Surf Event. 3) An in-meeting, pop-up, service project – Donation of Baby clothes and items to Foster Closet. 4) Tree Hill Service Day – pulling invasive plant species along alongside Retractors from Beaches Rotaract and Downtown Rotaract. Then we all joined volunteers from Navy Federal Credit Union and spread sand in the animal pens. What a fun morning! 5) Finally, we donated well over one hundred Baby Brain books to the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. These books guide young mothers in playing and interacting with their babies in a manner to stimulate healthy brain growth.

Socials – We implemented a new goal of at least one social per month. So far, we have done the following: July: A Barbeque hosted by CW Phipps and his beautiful wife, Kayleigh. August: Football game – opening night at Terry Parker High School. September: Drinks and snacks on The Rooftop at River and Post. It looks like we will be socializing at Truck or Treat, hosted by Downtown Rotaract for October.

Youth Services are developing at Terry Parker High School and at Arlington Middle School, thanks to Sonja Jones', and Scott Schuler’s initiative and support from the Youth Services Committee members. We are working on developing matching gift grant ideas now. And we have started joining the schools’ SAC meetings, to get a better feel for their needs and positive ways to partner. An ultimate goal will be to start an Interact Club in Arlington



[Thomas A. Trotta](#)
Past President
Club Admin
Chair
Webmaster



[Sonja Lorraine Jones](#)
Public Image
Chair
Interact Chair
iPast
President
Youth
Services
Overall Chair



[Sandra Jean Rogers](#)
Treasurer



[Mark T. Vanderberg](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



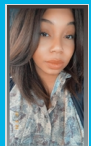
[Scott Schuler](#)
Youth
Services
Project Chair



[Liz Ferrell](#)
Bulletin Editor
Webmaster



[Brian Lee](#)
Rotary
Foundation
Chair



[Shanell L. Jones](#)
Web & Social
Media
Webmaster

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

schools.

Our first fund raiser is complete: Smoked Pork Butts. It was a success. We sold out and will do it again later in the Rotary year. (February) Our next fundraisers are also scheduled for mid-October and a Flags for Heroes event around Veterans' Day.

Finally, District/Zone events have included a visit from Our District governor and the Vibrant Club Seminar. Rotary Club of East Arlington had over 30% of the club in attendance. We received several awards and citations for a successful Rotary International year in 2022-23, led by our immediate past president, Sonja Jones. And just last week, we had a fantastic visit from District Governor, John Tabor, from the Orange Park Sunrise Club. He was introduced by our Area 4 Assistance Governor, Theresa Schuster. They were both a delight to hear! They had fun information, great advice, fruitful items to ponder and define, and entertaining Rotary stories to share.

Thank you for a great quarter, everyone! I cannot wait to create more Rotary Club of East Arlington stories. Let us go out and Create Hope in the World!

Warmest regards!

Stephanie D. Langford
Rotary Club of East Arlington
President 2023-24

Join Rotary in Support of our Local Babies with The Brain Game

By Sonja Lorraine Jones on Wednesday, September 27, 2023

The Brain Game



"The Brain Game" is a user-friendly educational guide which explains to parents why and how their child is learning and developing. Additionally, the book includes specific activities, songs, and suggested behaviors that parents can engage in to help foster their child's intellectual and social development.

The Brain Game was born when the Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families spoke to the Rotary Club of La Crosse, WI. She was excited to spread the word of new, cutting-edge research into early child brain development. More than ever before, scientists discovered that proper stimulation of children in the first three years could play a huge role in growing a healthy brain.

We will be distributing these books through local charities and health facilities to mothers. **Please click the links to learn more.**

[BRAIN GAME NEWS LINK](#)

[Web Site Link](#)

Halloween Trunk or Treat - Downtown Rotaract

By Thomas A. Trotta on Sunday, August 27, 2023



[Read More](#)

Sending Aloha, Prayers and Support to Maui, Hawaii

By Sonja Lorraine Jones on Monday, August 14, 2023





Earlier this week, horrible fires fueled by a dry summer and strong winds from Hurricane Dora overtook the island paradise of Maui, Hawaii. The historic town of Lahaina has been left to rubble. The fires have already claimed the lives of more than 50 people and have become the state's deadliest natural disaster since 1960. Its also the deadliest U.S. wildfire since the 2018 Camp Fire which devastated the community of Paradise, California. Hawaiian Governor, Josh Green, [estimates it will take billions of dollars](#) to rebuild all of the communities affected and there is an urgent need to house thousands of people who have lost their homes to the blaze.

Rotarians are *People of Action* and the Rotary members of Hawaii (District 5000) have created a [fund to help with the relief and rebuilding effort](#). We welcome members and clubs who are interested in supporting the recovery effort to donate there.

This relief fund aims to provide immediate assistance and long-term recovery support to the people of Maui, as they navigate the path to rebuilding their lives and communities. Individuals, businesses, and organizations are invited to contribute to the Maui Fires Relief Fund to provide immediate relief and support for the long-term recovery of Maui's communities.

53 Rotary clubs in Rotary District 5000 have already taken the lead by collecting donations at their club meetings and collecting needed supplies at collection points.

To donate or learn more about the Maui Fires Relief Fund, please visit rotaryd5000.org. Your support will play a vital role in helping Maui recover and rebuild stronger than ever.

Below is a letter from Rotary District 5000 Governor, Mark Merriam:

August 9, 2023

Aloha:

Today has been a tragic day for our families and friends on the Island of Maui. The fires across the island have changed lives forever. Truly devastating. Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted.

Rotary members are people of action, and we can take immediate action. As we come together to recover and rebuild, we need to support each other. We need to [Create Hope for Maui](#).

Through our Hawai'i Rotary District 5000 Foundation, a relief fund has been established. Foundation President Dave Hamil and Treasurer Sharon Amano will handle all donations.

A committee will be organized shortly to find the greatest needs for distribution of monies. A single fund will be the most helpful over time to provide the most significant benefits.

Please consider donating to this special fund.

[Donate Now - Maui Fires Relief Fund](#)

Please also widely share this opportunity to help.

Stay safe, take care and mahalo for creating hope.

*Mark Merriam, District Governor
Rotary District 5000, Hawaii, USA*

News and Announcements

By Liz Ferrell

News & Announcements

Pay Online

We are delighted to inform you that you can now pay your dues in the most convenient way possible by going online. You can make payments at any time and from any location thanks to our brand-new online payment system, which is powered by Team Merchant. For further information, please get in touch with Jim Smith.

First Coast Head Race

As the Head Race event approaches, your support is crucial, and we need volunteers to help with parking duties. Available shifts: 6-9:30am and 9:30am-12:00pm.

Bring a flashlight, sunscreen, and plenty of water.

Date: October 14, 2023

Location: First Coast Head Race

644 Cesery Blvd., Unit 250

Jacksonville, FL 32211

Events around the District

- Oct. 7 Cheeseburger Paradise
- Oct. 14 Pub Crawl
- Oct. 21 Swine and Dine Derby
- Oct. 21 Pedals and Pints
- Oct. 27 Lobster Fest-to-Go
- Oct. 30 Murder Mystery Party
- Nov. 11 Cornhole Tournament
- Nov. 11 Pirates on the Edge

[Read More](#)

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