



# District 6450 Headline News



Rachel Ossyra  
District Governor 2024-25



## District Newsletter 1-2-2025

Dear Irresistible District 6450 Rotary Members,

I wish you and your loved ones a Magical 2025 filled with peace, joy, happiness and health! Thank you for sharing the Magic of Rotary throughout our District and around the world. Together we can grow our impact and expand our reach to create lasting change.

### Together we are People of Action Making the Magic of Rotary Happen!

While the new year is exciting and full of hope, it also brings the harsh realities of cold and isolation. We ask for clubs to help with 2 District-wide projects to help our seniors through the cold and often lonely months of winter. **Mittens, Hats & Scarves Collection for Chicago Chinatown Seniors.** Candy Yu is organizing an urgent collection of warm mittens, hats and scarves for Chicago Chinatown seniors in need. Please contact [Candy Yu](#) or [Linda Yates](#) by January 18 to coordinate pick up of any items you can provide. The Chicago Chinatown Satellite Club plans to distribute the items as soon as possible before the Lunar New Year. Any help is appreciated for this critical need. All clubs are invited to collaborate with distribution.

### February 14 Have a Heart for Seniors Day of Service.



We invite every club to reach out to seniors in your community in February to let them know we are thinking about them. Possibly with cards, magazines, puzzle books, toiletries, sweet treats or other thoughtful items. Start by choosing a nursing home or care center and touch base to coordinate and deliver. Capture the moments of your members preparing the items and delivering. Send photos and videos to District Public Image Chair [Hunter Byington](#), who will prepare a video to share. Contact District Community Service Chair [Mary Dougherty](#) with any questions.



## District Calendar Update 1-2-2025

### DISTRICT EVENTS

- **Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound Country Reveal Party – Friday, January 10, 2025** – Join the Youth Exchange team for a fun evening when the outbound exchange students find out what country they'll be going to. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Get the most out of Rotary's Learning Center – Wednesday, January 22, 10am & 6pm.** If you're a president-elect, club officer or a member of Rotary interested in learning more about our organization, you will find a great many learning topics in Rotary's Learning Center. Register here to join one of these sessions to learn more - [10:00 am Session](#) or [6:00 pm Session](#).
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for Adults – two options available - Saturday, February 1 & February 15, Fountaindale Public Library, Bolingbrook.** The District in conjunction with Kids Matter will be hosting this training for up to 50 adults. For more information on what the training includes [see the Kids Matter website](#). [Register for Feb 1 here](#). [Register for Feb 15 here](#).

## Strengthening and Growing Our Youth Programs and Building Peace

**Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Country Reveal Party.** If you love fun, inspiration and suspense, I encourage you to celebrate our Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students and their families at the January 10 Country Reveal Party in Aurora. In addition to the BIG REVEAL, we will hear testimonials from several RYE Alumni on how the program has impacted their lives. Thank you to District Youth Exchange Outbound Coordinator [Sue DeBolt](#) and District Youth Exchange Chair [Aleta Williams](#). See District Events for details and registration.

## Youth Mental Health First Aid for Adults Courses.

Registration is open for the National Council for Behavioral Health certified training on February 1 and 15 in Bolingbrook. The course will teach individuals how to identify, understand, support and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. The costs are covered by a Rotary Foundation District Grant. Once we have a cadre of adults trained, we will shift our focus to our youth programs, particularly Interact. Thank you to District Youth Mental Health Chair [Nina Menis](#) and District Interact Chair [Kanayo Odeluga](#). See District Events for details and registration.

**HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR -  
VISIBLE & INVISIBLE**

Join Us for an Evening of Peacebuilding  
Hosted by PRIVP Pat Merryweather-Arges

February 4, 2025  
6-8:30 pm  
Ukraine Cultural Center  
2247 W Chicago Ave  
Chicago

**Rotary**  
District 6450

With Panelists:

- Dr. Olha Palivchuk, Gynecology & Oncology, Cherkasy Rotary Club
- John Hewko, Rotary International CEO & General Secretary
- Chris Manson, Executive Director US Ambulances for Ukraine
- Dr. Olga Maihutiak, MedGlobal Ukraine Health Programs Lead

**HEAVY APPETIZERS & CASH BAR**  
**NO FEE - RSVP ONLINE BY JANUARY 31**  
[WWW.ROTARY6450.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARY6450.ORG)

???????Join us for a special evening February 4 to help **Heal the Wounds of War – Visible & Invisible**. We are delighted to host Dr. Olha Palivchuk who is visiting from the Rotary Club of Cherkasy, Ukraine. Dr. Olha has worked tirelessly to literally help heal the wounds of war in Ukraine. We have assisted with several Rotary Foundation disaster response grants in 2022 and 2023 totaling \$675,000 to provide ambulances and medical and surgical supplies. Dr. Olha will be joined by panelists John Hewko, Rotary International CEO and General Secretary, Chris Manson, Executive Director of US Ambulances for Ukraine and Dr. Olga Maihutiak, MedGlobal Ukraine Health Programs Lead. See District Events for details and registration.

## Together We Are Growing Rotary

The Magic of Rotary is in our membership. We are progressing towards our goal to be an **IRRESISTIBLE DISTRICT** by forming at least 4 new clubs (traditional, satellite, caused-based, Rotaract, ...) and increasing net membership by at least 100 or more this Rotary year. **Since July 1, we've grown by 61 members and welcomed 2 new clubs!**

- **PRIVP Pat Merryweather is hosting an Evening of Peacebuilding – Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 6-8:30pm** – Dr. Olha Palivchuk from the Rotary Club of Cherkasy, Ukraine, RI General Secretary John Hewko, Executive Director of US Ambulances for Ukraine Chris Manson, and MedGlobal Ukraine Health Programs lead Dr. Olga Maihutiak will be panelists on Healing the Wounds of War – Visible & Invisible at the Ukraine Cultural Center, 2247 W Chicago Ave, Chicago. The event is free with heavy appetizers and a cash bar. [RSVP ONLINE BY JAN 31st](#).

- **Foundation Dinner – Thursday, March 6, 2025, Moraine Valley Community College – SAVE THE DATE! Registration will open January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- **2025 Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada** For more information on the convention, hotels and tours from District Convention Chair Barry McKeown [CLICK HERE](#).

## CLUB EVENTS

- **Hinsdale Rotary Special Program with Catherine Johns – January 10, 2025, noon**, Hinsdale Community House, 415 W 8<sup>th</sup> St, Hinsdale. Catherine Johns, former news anchor and WLS Radio talk show host, will be speaking at the Hinsdale Rotary meeting on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and the club invites anyone interested in hearing her speak to join them. She is a professional speaker and coach and is a catalyst for people who want to connect with others and make big things happen, like landing big clients, influencing decision-makers, and earning long-overdue promotions. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. RSVP to: Jeff Kida at [info@ddsdesignservices.com](mailto:info@ddsdesignservices.com)
- **Aurora United 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine & Chocolate Fundraiser – March 8, 2025**, Save the Date! Registration coming soon.

- **Bolingbrook Rotary 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – May 30, 2025, Bolingbrook Golf Club**. Save the Date and plan to join Bolingbrook Rotary in celebrating 50 years of doing good in the world.

## IMPORTANT NEWS

- **Special District Grant Funds Are Available** for Environmental Service (\$300), Cards for Seniors (\$250, 1 left), and Disaster Relief. Check out [the District Website](#) for more information.
- **ESRAG announces funding grants for environmental projects** – Has your club joined the Environmental Service Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)? If not, you might want to do so. ESRAG is offering environmental service grants for members. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)
- **New People of Action District Rotary Wear Now Available** – T-shirts, hoodies, & zip hoodies are now available

As Rotary founder Paul Harris said, "*If you have the love of your fellow men in your hearts, my friends, you are a potential Rotarian.*" I encourage you to invite a friend, a colleague or someone new in your community to discover the magic of Rotary for themselves.

Together we are People of Action making The Magic of Rotary happen!

Yours in Rotary,

Rachel Ossyra  
District Governor  
Rotary International District 6450

in heather blue with white printing. [ORDER HERE TODAY](#)

- **ShelterBox** is currently responding to needs in Syria due to the civil war. ShelterBox support from all Rotary Clubs in District 6450 is vital to save lives in Syria and in the 14 other countries where ShelterBox is currently responding. <http://www.shelterboxusa.org>
- **The Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula, Honduras** is requesting assistance to acquire a bus for 20 people. Their club is currently sponsoring medical brigades of approximately 20 people that travel every weekend to remote communities in Honduras to provide healthcare services and other support. A bus would help the entire team to travel together with their supplies to these remote communities. Contact Chuck Newman (RC of Naperville) at [Chuck@newmanArchitecture.com](mailto:Chuck@newmanArchitecture.com) 630-400-0055.

Did you miss the Navigating MyRotary & DACdb Zoom session on November 21<sup>st</sup>? Would you like to review the video of the session and the resources provided? Everything has been posted on the Resources tab of the District website under President Resources. You can find them at [THIS LINK](#).

#### **Important News About Your Club?**

Send it to [office@rotary6450.org](mailto:office@rotary6450.org) and we will put it in the D6450 Headline News

Don't forget that if you want your event to show up on the district calendar, you need to put in on your club calendar and use the event category "club event for district posting only".

If you want additional DACdb and/or website training, let me know.

Linda Yates  
District Administrator