



# District 6450 Headline News



Rachel Ossyra  
District Governor 2024-25



## District Calendar Update 2-2-2025

### DISTRICT EVENTS

- **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for Adults – two options available - Saturday, 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 15 here.](#)

There is still space available for February 15.

- **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.](#)

Dear Irresistible District 6450 Rotary Members,

I hope you all are doing well in this new year. I can't THANK YOU enough for all the impactful service you are doing in your communities and afar and for each other. 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!

Thank you for reaching out to help Rotary Districts [5280](#) and [5300](#) respond to the devastating **wildfires in the LA area**. They are very grateful for the outpouring of support from the Rotary family. District 5300 Governor Alberto Hernandez and others share first-hand experiences of resilience, loss and hope in this powerful [video](#).



- **Foundation Dinner – Thursday, March 6, 2025, Moraine Valley Community College –** Come celebrate Our Foundation and all of the good our clubs are doing in our communities and around the world. Keynote speaker for the evening will be The Honorable Joy V. Cunningham, Justice, State of Illinois Supreme Court. [REGISTER HERE!](#)
- **District Governor Installation – Friday, June 13, 2025 SAVE THE DATE!** Join in the celebration for the installation of 2025-26 District Governor Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson at the Huntington Bank Stadium Club at Guaranteed Rate Field. Registration will open March 1st. If you would like to be a sponsor or have your congratulations to Bonnie in the program, [opportunities can be found here.](#)
- **2025 Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada** For more information on the convention, hotels

We are also thankful to be able to help with the **Warm Winter Outerwear Collection for Chicago Chinatown Seniors** for distribution by the Chicago Chinatown Satellite Rotary Club on February 3 during Lunar New Year.

The Rotary Club of Bradley-Bourbonnais was highlighted in the current issue of Rotary Magazine for their annual **scenic jigsaw puzzle fundraiser** featuring iconic scenes from the local community. It's on p.16 in the People of Action Around the Globe feature. Check it out and consider doing something similar in your club to celebrate your community and promote local talent.

### 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.

### Strengthening and Growing Our Youth Programs

We had a joyous celebration with our two Outbounds and their families at the **Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Country Reveal Party** on January 10. One student will be going to Taiwan, and the other



will be going to Argentina! Both students are from West Aurora High School and are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Aurora First Light. Check out the AWESOME [video](#) of four RYE Alumni testimonials on how the program has impacted their lives. If your club is interested in participating in Rotary Youth Exchange in the future, please contact District Youth Exchange Chair [Aleta Williams](#).

### We Are the Birthplace of Rotary So Let's Celebrate Rotary's 120<sup>th</sup> Birthday February 23

Rotary started here in Chicago on February 23, 1905, with founder Paul Harris and 3 business acquaintances, who initially met at each other's businesses – or rotated – for the purpose of professional networking and eventually to provide valued service in the community. Their 1<sup>st</sup> service project was in 1907, the construction of a women's public toilets facility or "comfort station" on State Street, which was very much needed at the time, since women didn't go into taverns and the like. A plaque now commemorates the location of this historic project, and our ideal eventually became "*Service Above Self*". Check out the Bourbon Gift Set and Celebration event hosted by the Rotary Club of Chicago.

### Learning Journeys

Our 2025-2026 Rotary leaders are engaged in their learning journeys to prepare to take on new important roles beginning July 1. Our incoming club presidents, presidents-nominee, secretaries and club advocates/assistant governors will be attending Midwest President Elect

and tours from District Convention Chair Barry McKeown [CLICK HERE](#).

### CLUB EVENTS

- **Norridge-Harwood Heights Spaghetti Dinner – Friday, February 7.** Join Norridge-Harwood Heights Rotary for their annual Spaghetti Dinner at Estelle Sieb Community Center in Norridge. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).
- **Rotary Club of Chicago 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exclusive Bourbon Gift Set** – by J. Henry & Sons Distillery. There are a limited number of sets available, so order yours now at [BOURBON GIFT SET](#).
- **Rotary Club of Chicago is Celebrating 120 Years! – Sunday, February 23, 1-4pm at Chicago Theater Works.** [CLICK HERE](#) for sponsorship opportunities and to get tickets.
- **Aurora United 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine & Chocolate Fundraiser – March 8, 2025, Stonebridge Country Club, Aurora.** Join the fun and enjoy a wine and food pairing along with live and silent auctions. [Purchase Tickets Here!](#)
- **Bolingbrook Mac and Cheese Event – Saturday, March 8, noon-2pm, New Life Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook.** Come taste and vote for the best Mac and Cheese in the western suburbs.
- **Naperville Sunrise St. Paddy's Fun Run – Saturday, March 15.** Take part in the Naperville Sunrise Annual St. Paddy's Fun Run through Downtown Naperville. For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).
- **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. [Purchase Tickets Here!](#)

### IMPORTANT NEWS

#### 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.

Training Seminar (“Midwest PETS”) at the end of this month. Our District Governor-Elect Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson will be attending International Assembly in Orlando soon, along with her peers from around the world. It is a magical time, and I am excited for each of them. Thank you to all our Rotary members who are supporting this process, including Midwest PETS Executive Council Members Jane Hopkins (Vice Chair), Linda Yates (Secretary/Registrar), Brett Mitchell (Assistant Secretary/Registrar) and Chuck Corrigan (Program Vice Chair).

### **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 least 100 or more this Rotary year. **Since July 1, we’ve grown by 67 members and welcomed 2 new clubs!**

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

They are working in peace and development in more than 140 countries.

- **Special District Grant Funds Are Available** for Environmental Service (\$300) and Disaster Relief. Check out [the District Website](#) for more information.
- **New People of Action District Rotary Wear Now Available** – T-shirts, hoodies, & zip hoodies are now available in heather blue with white printing. [ORDER HERE TODAY](#)
- 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