



District 6450 Headline News



Rachel Ossyra
District Governor 2024-25



Dear Irresistible District 6450 Rotary Members,

I hope you all are doing well. I want to THANK YOU for all the impactful things you are doing in your communities and afar and for each other. I am so inspired by all of you – our People of Action – by your kindness and your passion for helping others!

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



Together we collected almost 2 semi-truck loads of **critical supplies for Hurricane Helene victims** in western North Carolina! Our 1st truck arrived on October 26, bringing supplies from our collection sites in Orland Park, Aurora, Chicago, Oak Park and

Naperville. Our 2nd truck departs this week. We also raised over \$4,000 to help with shipping and logistics and provide portable heaters for use in the cold mountain weather. Special thanks to District Disaster Response Chair Chris Olson and collection site coordinators PDG debi Ross, Aleta Williams, PDG Ade Onayemi and PDG Chuck Corrigan.

Thank you to those who attended the outstanding **Grants Extravaganza** on October 26 to exchange ideas and discuss project opportunities to do good in the world. Through our Rotary Foundation service grants, we are changing lives and building peace in a sustainable way. Special thanks to District Grants Subcommittee Chair Marshall Schmitt, District International Service Chair Dick Galitz, District Learning Facilitator Amy Hopkins and all the members of the District Grants Subcommittee. We invite any members who would like to join this dynamic team to contact [Marshall](#).



Congratulations to District Environmental Service Chair Mary Onorad, who recently received the DuPage Monarch Project's **Pollinator Protector of the Year Award!** Mary's extensive work, including her advocacy for our District 6450 clubs to implement grant projects for pollinator gardens, has brought recognition to Rotary, as well. Let's all keep this great work going to protect our environment!

District Calendar 11-1-24

DISTRICT EVENTS

- **Veteran Stand Down Day 2024 – Thursday & Friday, November 7 & 8.** Hold a coat drive in your area and collect medium to 5XL and larger new or gently used coats plus men for distribution. For more information and to volunteer for set up and distribution, [CLICK HERE](#).
- **District Governor 2027-28 applications due November 30th** – For more information on applying for District Governor for 2027-28, see the [GOVERNOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE](#) page on our District website.
- **Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound Country Reveal Party – Friday, January 10, 2025 – SAVE THE DATE** and plan to join the youth exchange team for a fun evening when the outbound exchange students find out what country they'll be going to. Registration will open soon.
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for Adults – Saturday, February 1, 2025, location TBD.** 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](#). Registration will open soon.
- **Foundation Dinner – Thursday, March 6, 2025 – SAVE THE DATE!**
- **2025 Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada** Keep an eye out for a new information page on the district website which will be up soon. For more information on the convention, hotels and tours from District Convention Chair Barry McKeown [CLICK HERE](#).

CLUB EVENTS

- **Westmont Rotary Reverse Raffle for Scholarships – Friday, November 8th** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 25 N. Cass Avenue in Westmont. Tickets are \$100 which will admit 1 person for dinner and open bar and a chance to win \$5000. Proceeds go to the Westmont Rotary Club's scholarship fund. Tickets can be purchased from any Westmont Rotary Club member or by contacting emailing zaknefian@att.net



Big thank you to all our members who supported Rotary's commitment to **END POLIO** by participating in the fundraisers and club events held throughout October. Hopefully many of you are enjoying the delicious Popcorn for Polio which raised \$1619.50 for Polio Plus. Special thank you to District Polio Plus Chair Eve Green for her passion and Past RI Vice President Pat Merryweather for updating us on Rotary's END POLIO NOW journey. We still have an

opportunity to support Marga Hewko of Rotary One in the **2024 Ride to End Polio** fundraiser in Tucson on November 23. [Donate Now](#) All of our donations to END POLIO are matched 2:1 by the Gates Foundation.

Thank you to many clubs who are participating in the **Chicagoland Coat Drive and Stand Down for Veterans without Homes** on November 8. Our goal is to provide at least 700 men's winter coats. Coat drop off dates and Stand Down registration information are in District News. **Let's serve our veterans who have served us!**

I wish I could attend all the terrific events our clubs are hosting in our communities. I love seeing your posts on social media and in club newsletters telling our stories. I especially love the events that bring out families and youth in our communities. My grandson Jem and I had a great time at the Rotary Club of Kankakee's Halloween Downtown on October 20, which brought families, local businesses and service providers together in dinosaur, superhero and Star Wars costumes to celebrate their community in a very fun way.

Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound Country Reveal Party January 10

We are asking members District-wide to Save The Date for this very special event to celebrate our 2025 Outbound Youth Exchange students and share in their excitement at the Country Reveal Party at 6 PM at Two Brothers Roundhouse in Aurora. Rotary Youth Exchange is our premier program for peace-building through our young people. Thank you to District Youth Exchange Outbound Coordinator [Sue DeBolt](#) and District Youth Exchange Chair [Aleta Williams](#).

Youth Mental Health First Aid for Adults Course February 1

The District will host training for Youth Mental Health First Aid for Adults, conducted by Kids Matter. The 6-hour course will provide a 3-year certification from the National Council for Behavioral Health. It will teach individuals how to identify, understand, support and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. The training will be offered for up to 50 District 6450 members on February 1. Registration will open December 1. The costs will be 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](#)!

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 58 members and welcomed 2 new clubs!**

I encourage you to invite a friend, a colleague or someone new in your community to discover the magic of Rotary for themselves.

Lisle Rotary Bet on Lisle Fundraiser – Friday,

November 8th. Get your tickets now for Lisle Rotary's [BET ON LISLE](#) casino night, including dinner, gambling and prize drawings.

- **Hinsdale Rotary Pumpkin Smash – Saturday, November 9th, 8am-noon at The Community House of Hinsdale, 415 W 8th St, Hinsdale.** Want to know what to do with your leftover pumpkins on gourds after Halloween is over? Take them to the Hinsdale Rotary Pumpkin Smash. The smashed pumpkins will be taken to the Republic compost heap in Romeoville.
- **Rotary/One is serving Thanksgiving Dinner – Thursday, November 28 at The Lawson House in Chicago.** There are volunteer shifts available for set up, serving and clean up. [SIGN UP HERE!](#) If your busy on Thanksgiving Day but would still like to help, meal prep volunteers are needed November 21-24. To sign up, go to the [Rotary/One Calendar](#).
- **LaGrange Pilgrim Pie Run for Rotary – Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28.** Join LaGrange Rotary at its 24th Annual Pilgrim Pie Run. Runners, walkers and volunteers are welcome. To register to run or walk, [CLICK HERE](#). To volunteer, contact Linda Yates at yates.linda@sbcglobal.net.
- **Woodridge Rotary Magical Holiday Gala – Wednesday, December 4, 6pm at Bobak's Signature Events.** Join Woodridge Rotary at their annual holiday gala in support of NAMI DuPage. For more information, check out their [WEBSITE](#).
- **Joliet Rotary Merry Merry Margarita Fundraiser – Saturday, December 14th at St Joseph's Park in Joliet.** Leave your ball gown and tux at home and channel your inner Jimmy Buffet or Key West vibes with beach attire for an exciting night of fun. Listen to the grooves by Mr Myers Band, munch on cheeseburgers in paradise, other appetizers, desserts, and of course - margaritas! [Tickets & Sponsorships available here.](#)

IMPORTANT NEWS

- **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](#)
- **Shelter Box response to Hurricane Relief** – Shelter Box is matching disaster relief funds donated through Zones 33 & 34. Check out the information on the our [DISASTER RELIEF PAGE](#) to find out how you can take advantage of the match through your donation.
- **Special District Grant Funds Are Available** for Environmental Service, Cards for Seniors, and Disaster Relief. Check out [the District Website](#) for more information.

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

Yours in Rotary,

Rachel Ossyra
District Governor
Rotary International District 6450

Important News About Your Club?

Send it to 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