



District 6450 Headline News



Rachel Ossyra
District Governor 2024-25



Dear Irresistible District 6450 Rotary Members,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying this special time of reflection and giving thanks for our many blessings. You all are a great blessing to me, and I want to thank you for being part of my Rotary family! Thank you for all your caring and impactful work as People of Action in your communities and afar and for each other.

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



Pat Merryweather-Arges
Past Rotary District 6450 Governor

We collected over 700 winter coats for our **Chicagoland Veterans Coat Drive and Stand Down Day**. Lots of thanks to all our generous clubs and volunteers who helped sort and pack the coats, set up and assist the veterans at Humboldt Park Armory on November

8. We are very grateful to Reebie's Moving & Storage in Naperville for their free warehousing and transport. Our amazing event chairs Past RI Vice President Pat Merryweather-Arges and Mary Dougherty recorded this [video](#) to thank all of you! [WATCH VIDEO](#)

Rotarians unite to help ShelterBox USA hurricane relief in North Carolina. I want to share a short [video](#) about the help our donations to the Rotary Zones 33/34 ShelterBox fund provided for Hurricane Helene relief, particularly in western North Carolina. Our District Disaster Response team led by Chris Olson also worked closely with District 7670 Governor-Elect Alex "Alpo" Portelli to coordinate our shipment of physical supplies in October. [WATCH VIDEO](#)



Alex "Alpo" Portelli
Retired Army Colonel
Governor Elect of Rotary, District 7670
Lead Coordinator of Disaster Response

Strengthening and Growing Our Youth Programs Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Events. I encourage all our



DISTRICT EVENTS

- **Rotary Youth Exchange Holiday Party – Sunday, December 8, 2025, 12-4 pm** at the Village Club of Western Springs, 4221 Lawn Avenue. Please join us for a fun afternoon of bowling, music and food, as we celebrate with our 2025-2026 Outbound exchange students and their families! Please RSVP by Dec. 1 to District Administrator [Linda Yates](#) or Western Springs Club Secretary [Barb Kartzmark](#). There is no cost to attend
- **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](#)
- **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](#).
- **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 and RI General Secretary John Hewko will be presenting on Healing the Wounds of War – Visible & Invisible

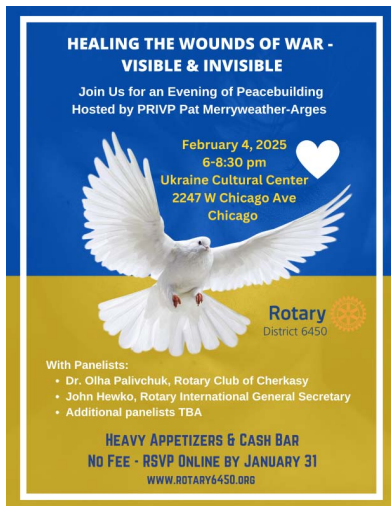
members to celebrate our Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students at two upcoming events - December 8 Rotary Youth Exchange Holiday Party in Western Springs and January 10 Country Reveal Party in Aurora. Thank you to District Youth Exchange Outbound Coordinator [Sue DeBolt](#) and District Youth Exchange Chair [Aleta Williams](#). See District Events for details and registration.

Youth Mental Health First Aid for Adults Courses.

Registration is now 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.

Strengthening Friendship and Building Peace

I'm excited to advise that our District is joining the new **USA-Mexico Intercountry Committee** to strengthen our friendship and promote global grants. Rotarian Martha Herrera has been appointed to be our District Representative. This initiative will create more opportunities for clubs throughout the District to increase participation and impact in both countries. The signing ceremony will be held December 6 in Houston.



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 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. 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 least 100 or more this Rotary year. **Since July 1, we've grown by 63 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

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!**
- **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

- **Chicago O'Hare is helping the Sisters of Notre Dame** – they are in need of 1200 small bags of candy/cookies and gift-wrapping paper if possible. The Fraternite of The Sisters of Notre Dame, serves, feeds and clothes Kids and families in the Austin Area (502 N. Central Ave. Chicago, IL). The candy and cookies are a complement to the Holiday gifts. If you can help, call Sylvia Jewgieniew at 847-533-8053 or email scjreal@yahoo.com.
- **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](#).
- **Matteson Rotary Holiday Basket Fundraiser – Friday, December 6, 6-9pm.** There will be 15 baskets to choose from as well as door prizes and an ugly sweater contest. Food & drinks will be provided and there will be trivia, karaoke, games, and a DJ. For more information [CLICK HERE!](#)
- **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](#)
- **Special District Grant Funds Are Available** for Environmental Service, Cards for Seniors (sold out), and Disaster Relief. Check out [the District Website](#) for more information.

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