

# The District Connector

Rotary



## August 2023



2023-2024  
District Governor  
Ken Firmin



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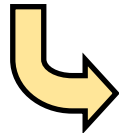
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I tell you, travelling through our District 6200 has become such an eye-opening experience for Judy & I. We have visited seventeen Clubs since July 1st plus a virtual one and have seen the best of Rotary and some struggles. But there is one common thread amongst all whom we have met, each member has a Rotary heart. We are so anxious to visit more Clubs in the weeks to come.

The First Lady's Gift Basket auction is doing better than expected thanks to all of the generous donations. She has reached nearly \$10,000 on her way to her goal of \$25,000. Needless to say, she is very excited.

Your donations are kept locally as 100% of the monies received from this auction remain in our District 6200 Disaster Relief Fund and will be available to assist those in our District stricken by disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes and floods. This is a 501c3 account and all donations are tax deductible.

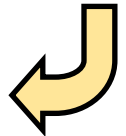
I am anxious to see everyone at our Districts Club Engagement Workshop on the 19th of August from 9-3. Big Rich Churchman, Greg Landry, Larry Simon, and Rob Roy have spent plenty of time preparing for this event, which will show where your Foundation dollars are being spent and strategies for retaining your Club members. Please register for this event as we need a head count for lunch and room setup. There is no charge.



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**Club Engagement Workshop  
Saturday, August 19th 9AM-3PM**

**West Baton Rouge Conference Center in Port Allen.**



*DG KEN*

**ROTARY LICENSE PLATES** Show your Rotary Pride with a Louisiana Rotary License Plate! Spread our motto of Service Above Self and inspire others to get involved in their community! [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!](#)



### Message from Michael G. Hayes, Chair, Rotary Action Group For Peace

One hundred and two years ago Rotary International (RI) embarked on a journey of bringing Peace to the world, by adding a commitment to peace to the organization's Constitution and Bylaws. RI has followed through on that commitment, its history filled with significant Peace actions and achievements. Rotarians have worked to foster peace and international understanding through programs like Group Study Exchange then Vocational Training Teams, Youth Exchanges, and the creation of Rotary Peace Centers and the sponsorship of Peace Fellows. The organization created the Rotary Foundation that builds Peace by creating sustainable communities through disease eradication, driving disease prevention through clean drinking water projects, projects to ensure maternal and child health, sanitation and hygiene which has the added benefit of supporting inclusion of young women in society, community education projects, community economic development projects, environmental projects and finally specific Peace projects. All these sustainable community development projects help to build Peace in the world. In addition, Rotary Clubs around the world are doing projects to make their communities stronger, more resilient. Now in this 103rd year of Rotary Peacebuilding, it is time to do more. It is time to be intentional about peace in all we do. We live in a period where change is happening more rapidly than ever. Change is difficult, change causes upset. Issues seem greater, divisions seem deeper, and people react. In these troubled times, we as Rotarians must be more tolerant, we must focus less on the issues and more on friendship and fellowship. Our responsibility is captured in these words from the Object of Rotary, "...the advancement of Peace through ... fellowship of persons... united in the ideal of service...". In this 103rd year of Rotary Peacebuilding, we Rotarians must be the example, finding peace through fellowships regardless of personal beliefs, find ways to intentionally build Peace in all we do.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE INSPIRATIONAL VIDEO, PEACE IS POSSIBLE](#)

### TRAINING YOUR CLUB FOR SUCCESS



For the past two years, we have focused mainly on attractive techniques to entice new members to join our Rotary family and increase membership. As we all know in life, we are not here to just live our life, but to be the healthiest, most productive versions of ourselves. The same holds true for each one of our Rotary clubs. Our 2023-2024 Rotary year will focus on looking at the true health or makeup of each of our clubs. You can't run a race with a bad heart or bad feet. We must take care of our health, our bodies, and our mind and the rest will all fall into place. We must treat our own club the same way. We will begin the year with a look at a retention assessment and analysis.

**Rob L. Roy, District 6200 Membership Chair, 2023-2024**



**ENGAGING & KEEPING MEMBERS:  
A RETENTION & ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS**  
[\(Click Here\)](#)





Zachary Rotarians got the latest update on the Comite River Diversion Canal DOTD Project at the July 20th meeting. Roy Payne, PE with RTL Consultants, provided the information. The project will help reduce flood chances in Zachary, Central and Watson.

Roy Payne pictured with DOTD employees as well as Mayor David McDavid and Zachary City employees and Councilman Brandon Noel



The Rotary Club of Gonzales hosted its second blood drive of the year, "A Pint for a Pint" on behalf of The Blood Center. Donors gave a pint of blood in exchange for a pint of Bluebell Ice Cream! AND for taking a selfie at the event, participants had a chance to win a 6500 kw Generac portable generator!



From July 8th—12th, the Rotary Club of Abbeville assisted the American Legion Post 29 in putting on a state baseball tournament championship at A.A. Comeaux Park's Theriot Field in Abbeville. The club prepared and served 703 plates of food and devoted 398 Service Hours.

## The Lafayette Rotary Club has joined the International Peace Pole movement


by acquiring a pole to be placed at Rotary Point. The pole will be placed in honor of Fabian Patin, who dedicated much of his time to the planning of the point and who is devoted to keeping it clean and beautiful.

A Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family, standing vigil in silent prayer for peace on earth. Each Peace Pole bears the message May Peace Prevail on Earth in different languages on its four or six sides. There are an estimated 250,000 Peace Poles in every country in the world dedicated as monuments to peace.

Planting a Peace Pole brings people together to inspire, awaken, and uplift the world's human consciousness. It is a wonderful project for any community, organization, or home. Peace Poles are now recognized as the most prominent international symbol and monument to peace. They remind us to think, speak, and act in the spirit of peace and harmony. Stand as a silent visual for peace to prevail on earth.

[CLICK HERE to find out why you should host a visioning session for your club!!](#)



 International Literacy Day is September 8th. We encourage members to give in support of **basic education and literacy** year-round, and especially on and around this day. Through your donation, or by encouraging others to donate, you can empower educators to inspire learning at all ages, increase adult literacy, and reduce gender disparity in education.



[Watch Trustee Chair Barry discuss the importance of giving!](#)





## [CLICK HERE for answers to the most frequently asked questions about the Paul Harris Society!](#)



October 24th is World Polio Day. Is your Club or District planning an event? Visit the End Polio Now resource center to find materials you can use to promote your event. You can download the World Polio Day Toolkit and register your event. You'll find videos, social media posts, educational flyers, graphics & logos, event guides, and more! [Click here to visit the website.](#)



Ken Firmin

Top contributor · 6h · 🌐

Another visit to SW Louisiana visiting the RC of Beauregard Vernon. They are a 100% sustaining Club living our motto "Service Above Self". This Club is well organized and recently switched from meeting at 7:30AM to noon, gaining ten new members in the process. One of the highlights of this visit was conversing with PDG John Gates who was Governor of our District over 40 years ago. At 96 he is sharp as can be, telling us stories from the past. He still drives, too. First Lady Judy held a very successful auction of a gift basket. We found out that she is a very good auctioneer as well. Next is the RC of DeQuincy.



DG Ken and Lady Judy are enjoying traveling the District and meeting with fellow Rotarians!



For two weeks in July, the Rotary Club of East Ascension provided volunteers to assist Tankproof, a nonprofit organization that provides free swimming lessons to children in underserved areas. Tankproof was able to provide free swimming lessons to several hundred children in Ascension Parish alone this summer.