



## District Governor Mike Martin

Dear Rotary Family,

Here I am, right before the holiday season, looking at all the highs and lows we encounter this time of year. My local newspaper has an editorial column where the author lists their opinion of what activities/events are Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down.

My editors won't let me list all my thoughts, so I am sorry if I did not mention your club.

Here are a few of "Mikey's ↑s & ↓s."

↑ For the Pontiac club who sponsored a Christmas program for educationally challenged elementary school children, complete with Santa and Mrs. Claus and gifts for all. The event has been going on for over 50 years.

↓ For those folks who do not open their Rotary e-mail. Club, District, and R.I. officers put forth great effort communicating important news and updates to the membership. Please take time to at least review the initial content before hitting "delete."

↑ For Peace Poles installed and dedicated by Urbana and Mattoon in their community. They serve as vehicles to carry the message "May Peace Prevail On Earth" out to every corner of the earth.

↑ For members who sponsored new members since June 30. District 6490 has brought in 55 new members since June 30 and currently leads Zone 31 in growth. Let's stay in the lead. The personal approach and "ASK" is what really works. Give the GIFT OF ROTARY.

↑ For everyone who delivers Meals

on Wheels/Peace Meals, or visits shut-ins, those in senior living facilities, or just checks on your neighbors to make sure they are OK. You may be the only person those people might see all day or maybe longer.

↓ For missing club goals in My Rotary. Less than 40 percent of clubs have entered their goals. I am sure that is due to forgetfulness; however, goals are important metrics when it comes to managing the District.

↑ For the Bloomington-Normal area clubs for collecting diapers, paper products, and cleaning supplies for those in need.

↑ For our Assistant Governors. They travel throughout their area, meeting with clubs, relaying information from leadership, and even saying nice things about the District Governor during his club visits. They are an integral part of our teams. And a special ↑ to Laura Pritts, the AG Coordinator.

↑ For 71 Champaign Rotarians and Interactors who rang Salvation Army bells at eight Champaign locations and the 12 Savoy Rotarians who rang bells at one Savoy location on Dec. 14.

↑ To the CU @ the Rotary Satellite Club that held a Girls' Empowerment Workshop, collected items to take to veterans at the VA, and wrapped gifts for the children at Cunningham Children's Home.

↑ To Fairbury, who rang bells and collected funds for their food pantry. Small but mighty!

↑ To Moraine View satellite club and other B/N area Rotarians who prepare

and serve meals at Salvation Army's "Safe Harbor."

↓ To all the Rotarians we miss at our meetings. You are missing out on the wonderful positive changes we are making in our community, in the world, and in ourselves. And, IF YOU HAVE READ THIS FAR, you definitely care about what is going on in Rotary.

↑ To all of you for all you do for the district and humankind. Thank you for being a Rotarian. May you all have a meaningful holiday season.

*Remember, it's not the things we do at Christmas. It's the Christmas things we do all year long.*

God Bless Us, Everyone,

DG Mike

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This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to do, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

—Charles R. Swindoll

*Who are you?*

## ***Register today for Your Pre-PETS Session***

Designed especially for Club Presidents-Elect and Assistant Governors

**Eureka: Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025, 2 p.m. ([register here](#))**

**Eureka Hospital Meeting Room, 101 S. Major St., Eureka**

Area 3: AG Dave Seltzer

Eureka, Metamora-Germantown Hills, Normal

Area 13: AG Mary Hodson

Dwight, Fairbury, Pontiac

**Bloomington: Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, 2 p.m. ([register here](#))**

**Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, 1621 Jumer Drive, Bloomington**

Area 1: AG Julie Payne

Bloomington, Moraine View Satellite, Bloomington Pub Club

Area 2: AG Neil Shah

BN Daybreak, BN Sunrise, BN Sunset

Area 4: AG Nester Ramirez

Atlanta, Clinton, Lincoln

**Savoy: Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, 2 p.m. ([register here](#))**

**First Baptist Church-Hospitality Room, 1602 S. Prospect Ave., Savoy**

Area 5: AG Marlys Scarbrough

Champaign West, CU Sunrise, Monticello, Savoy

Area 6: AG Bill Malone

Champaign, Mahomet, Rantoul, Urbana

Area 7: AG Don Rokosch

Danville, Danville Sunrise, Hoopston

Area 8: AG Chris Brodnicki

Decatur, Hillsboro

**Mattoon: Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, 2 p.m. ([register here](#))**

**Hilton Garden Inn-Eastern Room, 100 Coles Centre Parkway, Mattoon**

Area 9: AG Kenton Elmore

Arcola, Arthur, Tuscola, Villa Grove

Area 10: AG Jon McKenzie

Charleston, Mattoon, Sullivan

Area 11: AG Ashley Dillingham

Effingham, Effingham Sunrise, Vandalia

Area 12: AG Rachel Patrick

Casey, Newton, Paris, Robinson

### **Your Pre-PETS Session includes:**

- Overview of PETS: tentative schedule, what to expect, working with AGs
- Sign-in to My Rotary and DACdb
- Enrollment in Club President Basics (RI Learning Center)
- Review of Current Club Goals and Setting 25-26 Goals (RI Rotary Club Central)
- Preliminary 2025–2026 District 6490 Calendar and Plans
- Membership Leads
- PETS Registration and Social Time



# Foundation Donors Recognized by Charleston Rotary

The Charleston Rotary Club honored several club members for contributions to The Rotary Foundation during the club's 2024 Holiday Party.

With D6490 District Governor Mike Martin, Karl Konrad (right) and Judi Konrad (center) received Paul Harris-Plus Six pins. The Konrads also are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.

During the holiday celebration Tim Silence (center) was recognized as a Major Donor, Level 2. Charleston Rotary President Aaron Lock (not pictured) was recognized as a new Paul Harris Fellow.

District Governor Mike Martin and Assistant Governor Jonathan McKenzie (left) presented the pins and crystal to the four honorees.

Rotarians achieve Paul Harris Fellow status by contributing \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation, Rotary International's charitable public service organization. Major donors are Rotarians who have a cumulative donation of at least \$10,000.

Congratulations and thank you Judi, Karl, Aaron, and Tim!





## Urbana To Have Peace Pole Painting Event

The Urbana Rotary Club and the Urbana Park District are cosponsoring a Peace Pole painting event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 20, 2025, at the Phillips Recreation Center, 505 W. Stoughton St., Urbana.

The Urbana Rotary Club is designated as a Peace Building Club. The Peace Pole has become the symbol for many Rotary clubs to be designed and installed in a variety of creative ways in many communities throughout the world.

## B-N Sunset Honors Paul Harris Plus



Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club honored members with Paul Harris Plus awards on Dec. 3. Pictured (left to right): David Selzer, Doug Schwalm, Sue Seibring, Tracy Patkunas, Pat Messinger, Ron Slagel, and Club President Glenn Harbin. Paul Harris Plus Society awards represent annual gifts of \$1,000. To learn more about Society membership, please visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give>.

## RYLA Camp Scheduled April 4-6, 2025

RYLA Camp will be at the 4-H Camp at Allerton in Monticello for sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 4 p.m. Friday, April 4, to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 6 (please note this differs from the District Directory).

Registration fee for RYLA is \$165 per student. The fee is based on a goal of 80 students. If a club has an outbound or inbound Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student, they must attend. If a club sends a second non-student, the RYE student is free. If the RYE student is the only student, the club pays \$165.

If a club sent a sophomore last year, they return as a junior and pick a sophomore student for 2025. If a club sent a junior last year, they should return as a senior. First-year juniors and seniors will be accepted.

Sophomores will learn about their personality and how to work together as a team by utilizing the Colors Program and the University of Illinois (U of I) Challenge Course.

Juniors will learn business skills, participate in mock interviews with Rotarians and work as a team to build and race cardboard boats.

Seniors will learn skills to help them navigate college and life after high school. Students will learn to face their fears on the climbing wall (with assistance from professional U of I instructors.)

All students will learn from keynote speakers, group activities, and enjoy a night of games, dancing, bonfires, and camaraderie.

Please consider nominating shy, underserved, or overlooked students or students with disabilities who have not had the opportunity to become leaders.

RYLA Camp needs you! Rotarians are needed to recruit students to attend camp, chaperone overnight, assist with daily camp activities, conduct mock interviews with the juniors, check in campers Friday, take pictures and interview campers for a promotional video, or assist with paperwork prior to camp. If you have a special skill, inspirational story, or ideas to share you are welcome to incorporate them into camp activities.

For more information, contact Tanya Walker at 217-369-4376 or [ibtanya-walker@gmail.com](mailto:ibtanya-walker@gmail.com). Applications will be in the newsletter and emailed to club presidents in January.



Dave Casey, Normal  
Michael Hutson, Normal  
Kipling Knox, Urbana  
Jessica Woolcott, Champaign  
Elizabeth Westerfield, B-N Sunrise  
Aaron Alumbaugh, Mahomet  
Samantha Broms, B-N Sunrise  
Chase Kusnerik, B-N Sunrise Sunrise

*New Members in DACdb as of December 23rd*



**Gregory C. Lier Sr.**  
St. Charles Parish  
Endowment/Major Gifts  
Advisor EMGA  
Contact

**Details Coming Soon:**

**2025 Legacy Dinner:  
Club Presentations &  
Fireside Chats**





# 2025 Speaker Series

All Rotarians, Women United Members & Guests are Invited to Participate

Each Event will be held at Rob Dob's Restaurant in Bloomington beginning with Lunch at 11:30 a.m. and Speaker presentation at 12:00. Lunch is \$25 and includes entree, water, iced tea or soft drink along with tax and tip.

- JANUARY 10, 2025 **Deanna Frautschi & David Allen "Top 7 Tips You Can Use to Support a Cause You Love"**
- FEBRUARY 21, 2025 **Jenette Jurczyk "How We Women Tell Our Stories...and Inspire Others"**
- MARCH 14, 2025 **Dr. Maddie Francois & Colleen Kannady "Early Detection of High Risk Breast Cancer & New CARLE Support Programs"**
- APRIL 11, 2025 **Dr. Roy Magnuson & Dr. Raj Ramesh "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Brings High-Touch & High-Tech to Our Society"**
- MAY 9, 2025 **Paula Mitchell "Leadership Courage"**
- JUNE 13, 2025 **Sonya Reece & Holly Wayland-Hall "Community Health Care Clinic...a Hidden Gem"**

For more information, contact Pat Grosso, Assistant to Julie Dobski, grossopat27@gmail.com

### Rotary Mission Statement

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

### Women United - Mission Statement

Women United partners with United Way of McLean County, to positively impact our community through service initiatives and networking opportunities.

## Champaign Central Interact Raises Funds for Crisis Nursery



Champaign Central Interact organized its ninth annual 5K run on Oct. 26 at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana. CU Sunrise Rotary was a gold sponsor (\$500 level) in support of the run with all proceeds going to Crisis Nursery. This Interact Club is super-active, with fundraising events and service projects scheduled almost every month of the school year. Mary Kay Smith, Youth Services Chair for CU Sunrise, presented this sponsorship check at Interact's weekly meeting.



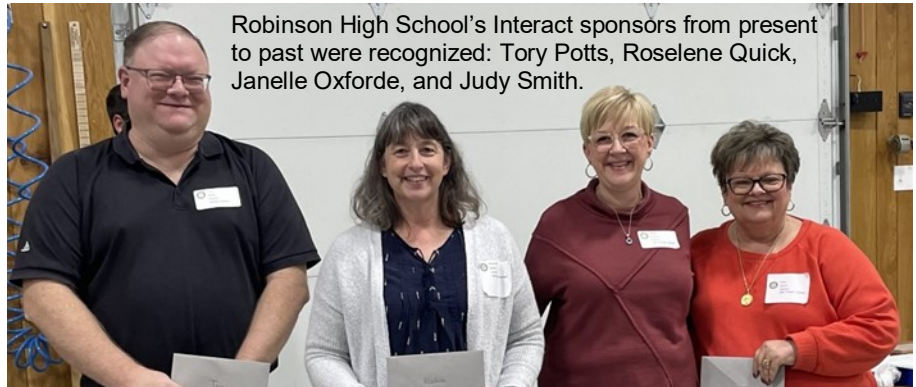
# Robinson Rotary Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Nov. 2, the Rotary Club of Robinson celebrated its 100th anniversary with a wonderful dinner, tributes, gifts, and entertainment courtesy of the Milkhouse Gang.

Event photos were provided by Danelle Hevron. Photos were also mailed to attendees. Robinson Rotary also presented \$100 checks to 10 nonprofit organizations in honor of the milestone anniversary.

**Below:** DG Mike Martin and District Vice Governor Mike Step enjoy the wonderful dinner sponsored by the First Robinson Savings Bank catered by Maxwell House. The beautiful floral arrangements were given to guests.

**Below:** Pictured (left to right): DG Mike Martin, David Smith, Von Meeks, Paul Morris, Greg Hevron, President Troy Hickey, Dr. John Trimble, Josh Quick, Grace and Gene Purdy.



Robison High School's Interact sponsors from present to past were recognized: Tory Potts, Roselene Quick, Janelle Oxforde, and Judy Smith.

Von and Kelly Meeks hosted the event in their very modern "barn."



Dr. John Trimble points to a table that he made. He has taught club members how to do woodworking. They make beautiful pieces they sell as a fundraiser for their club's projects.



President Troy Hickey (fourth from left) presented handcrafted, Rotary gifts made by Dr. John Trimble, to Past District Governors Gordon Bidner, Liz Skinner, Janet Ellis-Nelson, Mike Step, Ray Ropp, and George Haile from Columbus, Ohio. **Left:** DG Mike Martin presents a certificate to Hickey recognizing Robinson's 100th anniversary. The certificate was signed by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick.



# Mattoon Rotary and Lake Land College Dedicate Two Peace Poles

Nov. 20, the Rotary Club of Mattoon and Lake Land College held a historic ceremony, dedicating two Peace Poles on the Lake Land campus and the first public proclamation of Lake Land's Land Acknowledgment.

The two Peace Poles include the inscription "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 19 different languages spoken by past and present Lake Land students as well as the indigenous tribes who first inhabited the region. The Land Acknowledgment honors the tribes and demonstrates the College's commitment to supporting indigenous populations.

Lake Land College President and Mattoon Rotarian Dr. Josh Bullock read the Land Acknowledgment during the event. Rotary District 6490 Governor and Mattoon Rotarian Mike Martin, and Mattoon Rotary Club President Noah Olson, shared Rotary's mission, vision, and actions for peace, as well as the inspiration for the Peace Poles.

Tanatswa Mutamira, a Lake Land College international student from Zimbabwe, read an original poem about her journey and her experiences as a student in America.

As a service organization since 1921, Mattoon Rotary has continuously engaged in activities to build peace for locally and around the world. The club gained recognition as a Peacebuilder Club by the Rotary Action Group for Peace in August 2022. As a Peacebuilder Club striving to bring more focus to conversations that foster understanding within and across cultures, the club identified a Peace Pole project as an opportunity to create a dedicated space for such conversations. They chose Lake Land College as the location for the project to support and engage with students from local communities, communities across the country, and around the world.

What a wonderful opportunity for learning, fostering understanding across cultures, and introducing students to the service of Rotary both locally and in their home communities and countries.

Mattoon Rotary is grateful for Lake Land College's partnership, leadership, and commitment to installing Peace Poles in the beautiful Podesta Park on campus. The club appreciates the many students and employees who shared their time and talents to collaborate with Rotary to identify the languages and cultures recognized on the Peace Poles, installing the poles in the park, and providing the dedication ceremony. Special thanks to Denver Daniels, Coordinator of International Studies, and Mercury Bowen, Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Our collective goal is that this new area is used by the community, visitors, Lake Land students and staff to have important conversations and to find comfort, peace, and enjoyment. All are encouraged to stop and visit!

A short video from the Peace Pole dedication is available at <https://youtu.be/t8jMfNmOWjw>, and a WAND-TV story can be viewed at [https://www.wandtv.com/news/peace-pole-and-land-ceremony-at-lake-land-college/article\\_6cc68b44-a78c-11ef-9dff-2b27d8069889.html](https://www.wandtv.com/news/peace-pole-and-land-ceremony-at-lake-land-college/article_6cc68b44-a78c-11ef-9dff-2b27d8069889.html).





# C-U Rotary Clubs Host Veterans Event

Nov. 11, the Champaign-Urbana Rotary clubs restarted the Veterans One on One tradition started by Larry Kanfer and Jon Rector from Champaign West Rotary many years ago. Some 100 Rotarians and veteran guests gathered at City View in Champaign for lunch and a special program thanking veterans for their service.



Bagpiper Travis Atchison plays 'Amazing Grace' as fallen soldiers are remembered.



Champaign Rotarian Eric Meyer is flanked by Army veterans Joe Finnerty, left, and Charles Walters.

**Right:** From left, Urbana Rotarian Teri McCarthy, Urbana Rotarian and resident member specialist Bob Burger, Roch Ducey, Ron Peters, Anton Chaplin, Joe Finnerty, Director of Membership Services Sara Hawkins and Walter Maguire.



**Above:** Dr. John Wieland relays his story of enlisting in the Navy Medical Corps at the age of 56 to fill a critical wartime need as a general surgeon. Wieland spent six months in a field hospital in Iraq and a short time at another in Syria. He currently works for Carle BroMenn Medical Center in Bloomington.

Urbana Rotary President Bill Volk shares the news that the city of Thionville, France, dedicated a garden to the late Kermit Harden, longtime Urbana Rotary member, on the 80th anniversary of its liberation from German occupation. Attendees gave his widow, Ann, who was in attendance, a standing ovation.



Champaign Rotarians Chet Alwes, left, and David Thies lead the singing of the "Armed Forces Medley."

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# Polio Update As of Dec. 18

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases								
	Full year total						01 Jan-17 Dec <sup>1</sup>		Date of most recent case
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024	
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	6	63	29-Nov-24
Afghanistan	21	29	56	4	2	6	6	25	05-Nov-24
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	10-Aug-22
Malawi	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19-Nov-21
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
<b>Total (Type 1)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>88</b>	
<b>Tot. in endemic countries</b>	33	176	140	5	22	12	12	88	
<b>Tot. in non-end countries</b>	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	
<b>No. of countries (infected)</b>	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	
<b>No. of countries (endemic)</b>	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	
<b>Total Female</b>	18	72	59	2	10	4	4	36	
<b>Total Male</b>	15	104	81	4	20	8	8	52	

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## DG and DGN Visit Fairbury

District Governor Mike Martin, along with District Governor Nominee Deb West recently visited the Fairbury Rotary Club and shared a presentation about Rotary International's Foundation, which is "the engine that drives Rotary."



They reminded club members that they have a shared responsibility to fight, disease, provide clean water, help with good hygiene, support education, protect the environment and more. There are various choices of where a donation to the Foundation may be directed, they include the Polio Fund, the Disaster Response Fund, and global and district grants.

The Foundation has multiple Peace Centers located around the world, where about 130 of the world's younger generation learn to be "Agents of Peace." Donations to the Foundation are always welcomed. They shared that there are multiple ways to donate to the Foundation, which has one the highest ratings given by Charity Navigator. Cash, real estate, other forms of personal property, and IRA charitable rollovers were some of the examples shared.

The Foundation gift could be of a will, life insurance, or a retirement plan.

### You Spoke, We Listened

**We received your feedback on the new quarterly District 6490 newsmagazine, and the name will be . . . People of Action!**

### Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Rotarians are encouraged to submit news and information (including articles and photos) regarding grants, service projects, social events, fundraisers, community collaborations, gifts, new members, and initiatives to share the good news and good work with others in our district. The deadline for submissions to be included in the next newsletter is the third week of each month. Please email content for the newsletter to Newsletter Editor: Christine Walsh (Savoy) [cwalsh1974@live.com](mailto:cwalsh1974@live.com).