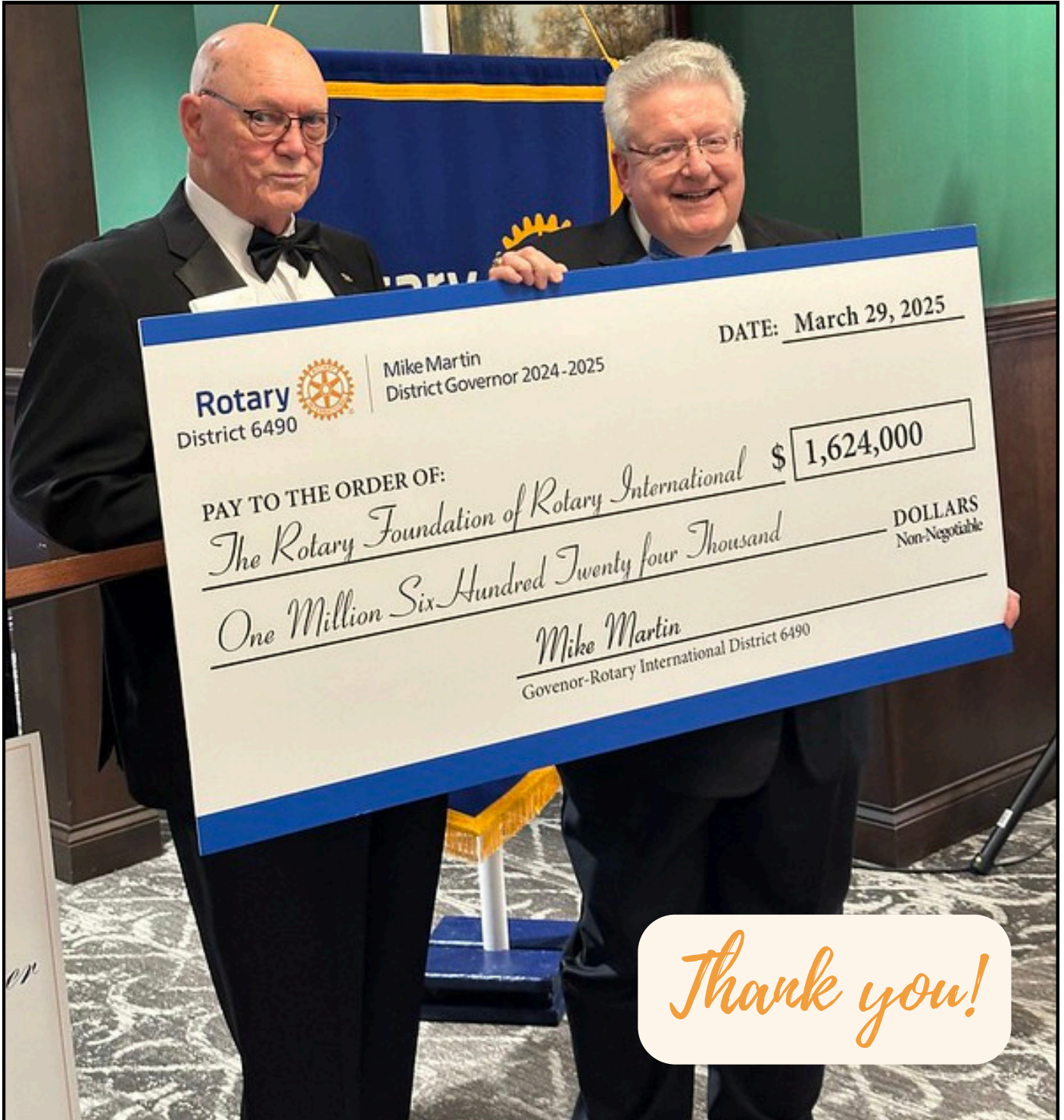




Rotary

District 6490



Thank you!

D6490 LEGACY DINNER DONORS RAISE \$1.6M for THE ROTARY FOUNDATION!



Mark Maloney, PRIP Keynotes
Historic D6490 Fundraiser,
Thanks Donors for Legacy
Dinner Contributions to TRF
Endowment



\$1.6M from 31 Donors!



Thank you D6490 Legacy Dinner
Planning Team, Supporters &
Volunteers for a Job Well Done!



Nearly Two Years in the Making,
D6490 Million Dollar Dinner a
Huge Success!

RI & District Leaders Attend PETS



More than 60 District 6490 Leaders participated in the Land of Lincoln President-Elect Training Seminar March 15–16 in Effingham. President-elects, president-nominees, and assistant governors attended specific learning sessions and all were included in three district breakout sessions.

Special thanks to district presenters:

John Calderon, District Governor-Elect, welcome, district plans and moderator

Mike Martin, District Governor 25-26 District Budget (approved by President-Elects)

Janet Ellis-Nelson, PDG and Membership Chair – Growing Rotary

Deb West, District Governor-Nominee – Rotary Foundation Matching Points Campaign, DACdb and MyRotary.org

Megan Schmidt, Zone 31 APRIC Rotary Public Image Chair

Bill Whitman, District 6490 Public Image Chair

John Hoblit, Global Grants Chair

Marlys Scarbrough, Assistant Governor District Grants

Doug Schwalm – Rotary Youth Exchange

During the wrap-up session, president-elects worked with their assistant governors to practice entering goals into Rotary Club Central.

Thank you to Amber Gruenloh for leading president-nominee training, Deb West for leading assistant governor training, and Doug Nelson for managing tech duties during the district breakout sessions.

Polio Update As of March 27

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases									
	Full year total							01 Jan-25 Mar ¹		Date of most recent case
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025	
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	74	2	6	10-Feb-25
Afghanistan	21	29	56	4	2	6	25	0	1	27-Jan-25
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	10-Aug-22
Malawi	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	19-Nov-21
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
Total (Type 1)	33	176	140	6	30	12	99	2	7	
Tot. in endemic countries	33	176	140	5	22	12	99	2	7	
Tot. in non-end countries	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	
No. of countries (infected)	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	
No. of countries (endemic)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Total Female	18	72	59	2	10	4	43	0	4	
Total Male	15	104	81	4	20	8	56	2	3	



Mário César Martins de Camargo, President of Rotary International for 2025-2026, spoke at the Land of Lincoln President-Elect Training Seminar (LOLPETS) in Effingham, held March 14 and 15. He stressed that Rotarians must “Unite for Good” and that his focus will be on growing membership.

Urbana Rotary Helping Organize MLK Peace March

The Urbana and Champaign Park Districts will come together with the Urbana Rotary Club and other community organizations on April 4, the date Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, to model the late civil rights leader's peaceful activism.

The Martin Luther King Jr. March for Peace will begin at 5:30 p.m. at King Park, 915 W. Wascher Drive, Urbana, and people will march to the Champaign Park District's Douglass Community Center. Parking will be available at King School and along Wascher Drive. Walking route maps will be provided at the park.

The Urbana Free Library will have an exhibit from the Champaign County Historical Archives at the Douglass Branch Library City for attendees to view. Park District and other designated officials from both Champaign and Urbana will make remarks at each site.

The public is invited to this free event. The Champaign Park District will provide transportation between King Park and the Douglass Center so marchers can return to their cars at the end of the evening. Attendees who choose not to march can park their car at Douglass and will be transported to King Park for opening remarks and back to Douglass for closing remarks, refreshments, and the opportunity to view the Urbana Free Library exhibit.

For more information, contact Jaleel Jones, Urbana Park District, jtjones@urbanaparks.org, 217-255-8601.

QR code to the PETS packet



Scan the QR code for all handouts and information shared during the District 6490 Breakout Sessions at Land of Lincoln PETS. Use this link to review the video on My Rotary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRkGTR6wOgg&pp=0gcJCU8JAYcqIYzv>.

Council on Legislation (COL) Update

Meeting Details and Vetting Process Summary

By LIZ SKINNER

I, along with 529 COL delegates from districts throughout the Rotary world, will meet April 13-17 in Chicago to discuss and vote on legislation to amend Rotary documents.

You can review the 86 proposed enactments on the district website under the tab "About Rotary." I invite you to review them and share your comments with me at rotaryliz6490@gmail.com.

Vetting Process:

During the period of Jan. 28 through Feb. 11, 25 enactments selected by the Council Operations Committee were considered online by the representatives ahead of the COL in what is termed a vetting process. The purpose of this process is to make the COL more efficient by more easily considering those items that have widespread support or opposition. The items that receive more than 80 percent of the eligible votes in support are considered on a consent agenda for the COL; those receiving more than 80 percent of the eligible votes in opposition are considered rejected and will not be considered further.

Results of the Vetting Process:

The results of the vetting process indicate that there was little widespread support or opposition:

Only one enactment, 25-42 (To amend the requirements for suspending or terminating a club or Rotaract club), received more than 80 percent of the eligible votes in support. It will be added to a consent list to be approved at the opening general session and adopted at the 2025 COL meeting with no further discussion.

No enactments received more than 80% of the votes in opposition.

The remaining 24 enactments will be brought before the Council for discussion and a vote.

Danville Rotary Makes Donations, Welcomes Members

The Danville Noon Rotary Club presented \$5,000 in donations to several local not-for-profits supporting veterans from funds raised through the 2024 Rotary Memorial Way Project.

Awards included a check for the Sparky Songer Scholarship, which was presented to Executive Director Tonya Hill of the DACC Foundation



(L-R) Bob Balla, Dan Mullins, Larry Weatherford, Rick Rotramel, Aaron Cain, Jolene Watson, and Tonya Hill.

Larry Weatherford accepted a check on behalf of the Vermilion County War Museum. Commander Bob Balla and Sr. Vice Commander Dan Mullins were present to receive a check for the American Legion Post 210.

And lastly, a check was presented to Jolene Watson and Aaron Cain of VAIHCS in support of the VA Illiana Health Care System Homeless Program.

The Danville Noon Rotary was also excited to welcome two new members: Ross Webb of Ross Webb Insurance and Financial Services- State Farm Agency and Zachary Fisher from Luxe Lift Aesthetics & Wellness.



Zachary Fisher is inducted into Rotary by Hayley Siefert.



Ross Webb of Ross Webb Insurance and Financial Services- State Farm Agency is inducted into Rotary by Hayley Siefert.

The next meeting will be at noon Monday, April 7, at WorkSource Enterprises.

Mark your calendars for Spring Clean Up Day, from 9 to 11 .m. April 26, and watch for information on the Rotary Memorial Way Project coming up in May.

Danville Noon Rotary would like to welcome everyone!

Mattoon and Charleston Clubs Hosts Comedy Night

2024-2025 Award Nominations Due May 9

As the current Rotary year reaches its end in June, it is time to reflect upon the service of our Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians during the 2024-2025 Rotary year.

Please consider nominating a deserving individual or club so we can recognize them for their hard work and achievements!

Starting April 9, nomination forms will be available on the Rotary District 6490 website at rotarydistrict6490.org.

For more information, please contact District Awards Committee Chair Dana Schaumburg at dschaumburg@hotmail.com

Nominations are due May 9, 2025 for consideration, and the awards will be presented at the District Installation in Rantoul on Saturday, June 14, 2025. All award winners will be contacted in advance so that they will have the chance to attend the installation to be awarded in person.



Mattoon and Charleston Rotary Clubs' Annual Rotary Comedy Night was held on March 22.

The event raised \$5,000 for the Rotary Heart Scan endowment, \$7,000 for athletic physicals for student athletes, and \$3,000 for Charleston and Mattoon athletes in need of assistance to help cover the expense of athletic equipment.

Champaign Club Has New Paul Harris Society Member



District Governor Mike Martin recognized Champaign Rotary Club member Nathan Montgomery as the newest member of the Paul Harris Society. Those who commit to giving \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation each year are eligible for membership.

Normal Club Brings Musician to Students

Not every Rotary meeting takes you on a trip to Margaritaville. Normal Rotary changed its latitude and attitude recently with a very special guest, the longtime bassist for the late Jimmy Buffet's band, the Coral Reefers, though no club member had to search for a lost shaker of salt. Jim Mayer still tours in that band. He also does his own school programs to build social-emotional health in young children through song, activities, and puppetry.

Normal Rotary helped bring Mayer to Unit 5 schools for a week. The club used a grant to make sure Mayer could play in two schools in particular, ones that have a high percentage of children from underserved communities. Club Past President Dayna Brown facilitated the trip and brought him to the club to talk about his IM4U learning initiative.

Mayer started writing funny songs for his nieces and nephews and then started to play school gigs. An early effort even turned into a song that hit No. 1 on a children's music chart, "Funky as a Diaper." Mayer said he started noticing classroom needs.

"As I visited schools, I noticed all the right messages were on the walls—respect, kindness, empathy—but it was pretty obvious the kids weren't getting it," Mayer said. And the operation of music on the subconscious was Mayer's intuitive entry into psychology and the curricular foundation of his programs.

"What I didn't know that what I was doing was actually a psychological practice called 'using transitional objects,'" said Mayer.

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**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Kwesi Osafo, Eureka
Jodi Brtva, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Cathy Belcher, Moraine View
Wayne Clark Sr, Villa Grove
Zachary Fischer, Danville
Mike Marron, Danville
Susan Weaver Northup, CU @ the Rotary
Ross Webb, Danville
Kayla Kerner, Mattoon
Amber Kaylor, Decatur

New Members in DACdb as of March 31st

Normal Club Brings Musician to Students Cont.

For instance, he uses the song “Lonely Broccoli” to spark empathy in children and allow them to talk about their feelings.

The idea came to him one evening while preparing a salad, when he inadvertently left a tiny piece of broccoli out of the bowl.

“It made sense to me to sing about a lonely broccoli that’s left out of the salad,” said Mayer.

He said transitional objects are especially useful for young children.

“Instead of saying are you lonely or do you feel empathy or all that, the lonely broccoli becomes the topic and not the child.

This eases pressure for the child, so it doesn’t have to be all about how does little Jimmy feel.

That gets very uncomfortable,” said Mayer.

Mayer said his programs are also long on play, which is a well-documented help to learning. He consulted other experts including one member of the team from Clifford the Big Red Dog to polish the curriculum.

“One of the powerful things that music does is it connects our head and our heart, but in a real natural way,” Mayer said. “You don’t even realize you’re learning.”

Mayer said at his core, he experiences life and translates it into song and that his values align perfectly with those of Rotary.



Michelle Voudrie, Decatur
Tamara Washburn, Vandalia
Keith Moore, Champaign
Michael Workman, Lincoln
Zak Jones, Decatur
Herbert Burnett, Urbana
Stephanie Burnett, Urbana
Torionna Exum-Johnson, Urbana

New Members in DACdb as of March 31st



Join Leaders, Exchange Ideas, and Take Action at District RLI on May 10

D6490 will host the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) on Saturday, May 10, at Richland Community College in Decatur.

Open to all Rotarians, RLI is designed for those Rotarians who have the potential and willingness to engage in future club leadership, not necessarily as club presidents. RLI increases your Rotary knowledge and leadership skills and helps you make connections with Rotarians around the District—learning about their successes and experiences in their clubs.

The Rotary Leadership Institute is a multidistrict, grassroots leadership development program using facilitation in small groups to engage Rotarians and strengthen clubs.

Launched in New Jersey in 1992 by club Rotarians, its purpose is to help future club leaders prepare for their club and community leadership role through a quality training and educational experience. The RLI has spread to more than 115 districts in numerous countries because local clubs recognize the importance of training future leaders.

The RLI provides an opportunity to learn about the exciting world of Rotary with its more than 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

The leadership skills you obtain at an RLI event will help you in your involvement in Rotary as well as your leadership efforts professionally.

Join us for the next RLI:

When: Saturday, May 10, 2025

Check in: 8:30 a.m.

Program: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Richland Community College, Decatur

Educational materials, as well as a light breakfast, drinks, and lunch are included in the \$60 registration fee.

Many clubs sponsor members who are interested in attending RLI.

To register: Go to <https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77816392>. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code.

Registration must be completed no later than Tuesday, May 6, as each session has a maximum number of participants. If you have any questions, please contact RLI Chair, Cindy Guthrie at district6490rli@gmail.com.



Fairbury Club Hosting Grocery Grab Fundraiser

Ever wanted to run around a grocery store piling up as many groceries as you can on someone else's dime?

The Fairbury Rotary Club is having a "Grocery Grab" fundraiser on June 6 at Dave's Supermarket in Fairbury.

The fundraiser will generate scholarship funds and financial support for other local needs.

There will be four big winners.

Tickets are available from club members.

Like us on [Facebook!](#)

Newsletter

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)