



Rotary
District 6490



District Governor Mike Martin

Dear Rotary Family,

October has been an exciting month for me. I am looking forward to a season of rebirth and new growth just a few months away.

It is the time of year when we see a transition from summer to fall to winter. We experience harvest time when farmers see the efforts of their year-long labor come to fruition. We see the beautiful fall leaves dropping from the trees; an indication that colder weather is just around the corner. Barren fields and trees also signal the end of one cycle and the beginning of another.

October also has me looking forward to the transition in the Rotary year; from the hustle and bustle of the District Governor's travel to other noteworthy events and activities honoring Rotary, Rotarians, and our accomplishments.

In October, we held our 2024 District Conference where we came together to network, share, learn, remember, honor, and celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow Rotarians, clubs, and district.

We discovered what's happening in Rotary and the district and learned about projects on which other clubs are working. We heard from inspiring and motivating speakers. We shared ideas and discussed Rotary-related matters.

In addition, our D6490 Past-District Governors, surviving spouses, family-members, and friends were able to gather and enjoy the companionship of their peers.

AND, during our District Conference, we raised money for PolioPlus!

We continued to raise funds for PolioPlus as we celebrated World Polio Day on October 24.



With the Basket Auction, the Champaign Rotary Club's "Pints for Polio," and other various club events, D6490 raised an estimated \$20,000 to be double matched by the Gates Foundation.

November is also a meaningful month for D6490 and our members.

On November 2, 2024 the district nominating committee will select their candidate for District Governor Nominee Designate. If approved by the members of the district, the designee will become District Governor in 2027-2028.

Also, numerous clubs will hold Veteran's Day celebrations the week of November 11.

Finally, with Thanksgiving and the busy holiday season just ahead, many of us will take time to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the past 12 months of Rotary; thanks for our fellow Rotarians and what we stand for; the service we and our clubs provide to others in our community and around the world; promoting peace which we strive to deliver; creating hope in our communities, our nation, and the world, and The Four-Way Test.

The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one, you light one, 1.3 million Rotarians light one. Together, we light up the world.

Mike Martin
District Governor
2024-2025



District Governor, Assistant DG Visit Newton



District Governor Mike Martin and Assistant District Governor Rachel Patrick recently visited the Newton Rotary Club. They are pictured here with Club President Jill Hackett (center).

DG Honors Decatur Rotarian

Jerry Johnson, Immediate Past President and PolioPlus Chair of Decatur Rotary Club, receives the 2023-24 RI certificate for meeting the \$1,500 PolioPlus challenge from DG Mike Martin.



Please join us for a
PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR HOLIDAY BUFFET LUNCHEON 2024
 HOSTED BY
DISTRICT 6490
 Saturday, Dec. 7
 11:30 a.m.
 Mattoon Golf and Country Club Clubhouse
 6799 N. Country Club Road,
 Mattoon
 \$25 per person
See you there!

Like us on Facebook!

Clubs Approved for 2024-2025 District Grants

Thank you to each Rotarian and club for making *The Magic of Rotary* a reality in your community and around the world through District Grants.

Arcola – Community Development – \$2,000 – The club will create a city dog park, offering physical and social benefits for both dogs and their owners while developing a sense of community and connection for dog owners. Rotarians will also complete a day of cleanup service in the parks. The club, its foundation, and the city will contribute significant funds for fencing to increase the impact of the grant. Signage and media will promote Rotary.

Arthur – Health – \$2,000 – Rotarians will assist at-risk single mothers and their children by cleaning, painting, and refurbishing rooms at a local shelter that supports unwed, expecting mothers and women in domestic violence situations. The club will match grant funds to purchase paint, furnishings, and supplies for the rooms they sponsor at this apartment. A Rotary plaque will be installed, and local media will cover the project.

Bloomington – Health - \$2,000 – The club plans a partnership with the Central Illinois Special Hockey Association to provide safe helmets and equipment for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They will cheer on the athletes at a special hockey practice and hold a celebration for Rotarians and athletes afterwards. The club is matching grant funds for the new equipment. Rotary stickers will be placed on the helmets.

Bloomington-Normal Daybreak – Community Development – \$1,122 – Rotarians plan to do various building repairs and construct raised garden beds for Dreams are Possible, a small nonprofit training center that provides classes and workshops for economically marginalized women. The building dates from 1910, so many repairs will be needed over several workdays. Signage at the busy intersection and media articles will highlight this Rotary project.

Bloomington-Normal Sunrise – Community Development - \$1,770 – A local healthcare facility provides medical and dental services to those who cannot afford it and also provides free produce from their community garden for anyone who visits the clinic. This club plans to provide seeds, plants, trees, and shrubs for the garden. They will work to plant and maintain the space. Local press and media will provide coverage and photo opportunities.

Bloomington-Normal Sunset – Community Development – \$2,000 – Up to 100 local residents live on the streets because they do not qualify for shelters. This club will partner with Home Sweet Home Ministries to provide tents, flashlights, blankets, and hygiene supplies to this population. Rotarians will procure and deliver supplies to the ministry organization and assist with distribution to street residents as allowed. The club is matching grant funds.

Bloomington Pub Club – Health – \$2,000 – Senior citizens living on a fixed income find it hard to afford incontinence products that are necessary for their personal hygiene and well-being. This club is partnering with a local “paper pantry” to supply these items for clients. Club members will obtain these items and volunteer at distribution events. Fundraising events will be held to supplement grant funds, and social media will promote the project.

Champaign – Education/Water – \$2,000 – As part of an International Service Trip with other Rotary districts, club members will travel to Mexico to repair/replace up to 200 desktops in schools in the impoverished Guadalajara area. They will also install water filters in four schools to provide clean water for the students and allow them to take clean water home for their families. Club donations will provide 10 more filters for private homes.

Charleston – Environment - \$1,400 – The club will support environmental sustainability by recruiting the collection of over 420 pounds of plastic caps and lids, which a recycling company will turn into two durable, maintenance-free benches for a local state park. The deep-blue benches with Rotary logos will provide a resting spot for visitors in a scenic area of the park. Rotarians will collect, clean, sort, and transport the plastic.

CU @ the Rotary Satellite – Health – \$1,970 – The new satellite club will work with underserved girls to create clothing and other items that convey messages of positive self-image and confidence. Rotarians will work with the youth about messaging and help them create shirts and other materials with sublimation printers. Local media will cover the project, and Rotary-branded labels will be installed on durable production equipment.

CU Sunrise – Health - \$2,000 – A local home-visiting program serves at-risk families with young children. This club will purchase doorknob and outlet covers, baby gates, smoke detectors, and a variety of other safety items to be assembled into a kit for needy families. Rotary labels will be placed in the front of “Safety around the Home” books in each kit. A club member will donate additional funds for kit supplies.

Danville – Health - \$1,970 – Children who are grieving due to the sickness or loss of a parent can receive comfort by receiving a basket consisting of books, crayons, inspirational books, a stuffed animal, and packet of glitter. This club is partnering with “Light the Way,” an organization created by a girl who suffered the loss of her father from cancer when she was 4, by creating and distributing 40 baskets to grieving children.

Grants Cont.

Effingham Sunrise – Community Development - \$2,000 – The community's crisis nursery serve around 150 children annually by providing help for children needing emergency care. This club plans to match grant funds to purchase toys and equipment for the nursery's playground, trim trees and finish the deck to provide a safer environment. A table and Rotary bench are included in the project. Feature stories will be run in the media.

Fairbury – Community Development - \$2,000 – The rural village of Cropsey is working to rejuvenate the community, with a large project being the creation of Cropsey Area Memorial Park. With the recent installation of playground equipment and plans for sports courts in the park, this club will be providing picnic tables, assembling them, and placing them in a soon-to-be-built park shelter. Local media will provide coverage.

Hoopeston – Community Development - \$2,000 – The town's public library has been an important part of the lives of many generations of readers. To encourage a love of libraries and reading for teens and pre-teens, the club plans to update the library's Youth Room by painting, redecorating, supplying new furniture, and providing new puzzles and games. A Rotary plaque and media will announce the project.

Mahomet – Health – \$1,970 WRAPPs (Washable Reusable Accessible Protection for girls during menstruation Promoting equal education opportunities) are in constant demand to allow young women to still attend school during their menstrual cycles. The club is partnering with a local organization to learn how to sew WRAPP kits, which

will be distributed to a local pantry and to locations in Africa. Media and newsletters will provide coverage and newsletters will provide coverage.

Marshall – Education - \$1,970 – Some junior high students are unable to participate in gym class and extra-curricular sports due to lack of proper clothing and gym shoes. This club is working to launder and supply the school's "Cubs Closet" with these new items for needy students so that they can discreetly be empowered and confident in these physical pursuits. A 4-Way Test and other Rotary info will be posted in the closet.

Mattoon – Community Development - \$1,970 – The club will cultivate flowers and vegetables in the local Bill Dwey Sensory Garden that will provide sensory-aid plants for community members, especially those with disabilities, as well as a free food source. The multi-stage project will include garden prepping, planting, construction, and mounting of a peace pole. A Rotary plaque and media coverage are planned.

Metamora-Germantown Hills – Education - \$1,970 This project provides instructional support for 29 elementary students with significant disabilities through the Woodford County Special Education Association. Grant funds will go toward task boxes, adaptive musical instruments and sensory items. Rotarians will purchase and deliver supplies and serve as volunteers and mentors in the classrooms. WCSEA will provide project updates on their Facebook page.

Monticello – Community Development - \$1,923 This club will construct and improve fencing for the Hope Lives Youth Ranch, home of therapy horses that work with children with anxiety, depression, and other social/behavioral issues. The club is matching grant funds to provide the lumber, fencing, and other necessary supplies. They will wear their Rotary T-shirts during the project for social media photo ops.

Normal – Education – \$2,000 – Following COVID-19, there are still students who struggle socially. This

club will partner with an expert in social emotional learning for a school program (IM4U) that uses music to create an environment of connection, growth, and discovery, while fostering a sense of unity, compassion, and friendship. Rotarians will supervise the assembly, volunteer monthly, and distribute 4-Way Test bookmarks.

Paris – Community Development - \$2,000 A local park is used by kids whose siblings play team baseball nearby. This club will replace an existing deteriorating swing with a safe, new, handicap-accessible model. Rotarians will assemble the new equipment and spread mulch around the new play set. Matching funds and donations will increase the grant's impact. The park is identified as a Rotary project with signage.

Rantoul – Community Development - \$2,000 Rantoul is very proud of its history as host to the now-decommissioned Chanute Air Force Base, once one of the largest Air Force training facilities in the world. The club plans to create and install a storyboard at The Missile, one of the few artifacts remaining, to explain the base's history and significance. The village is matching funds, and the sign will credit the Rotary club's sponsorship.

Tuscola – Education - \$2,000 The local school is always looking for activities for students to do at recess and P.E. This club plans to provide tools and labor to install two Gaga Ball pits, which foster competition, teamwork, and activity in an enclosed space that is easy to supervise. The club and school district are matching grant funds. Rotary signage will be attached to the structure, and media will cover the "Rotarians at Work."

Urbana – Peace - \$1,515 Building on the relationship that this Peace Club already has with Solidarity Gardens, which grows and provides produce to the needy, Rotarians plan to buy, paint, and install peace poles in four or five Solidarity Garden sites. Funds will also purchase seeds, plants, and supplies to support the garden program. The Urbana Park District is offering additional funding. Social media and District articles will share info about the project.

Rotary Foundation Honors 2023-2024



The Rotary Foundation recognized clubs in our district with recognition banners, certificates, and congratulatory letters for their 2023-2024 giving. At our recent District Conference, District Rotary Foundation Chair PDG Connie Walsh presented the clubs with their awards.

One of only 1,530 clubs to achieve Top Three Highest Per Capita Annual Giving honors in our district and receiving banners include: **No. 1 Urbana (\$509.13); No. 2 Bloomington-Normal Sunset (\$302.14); and No. 3 Champaign West (\$276.75).**

For clubs that achieved a minimum Annual Fund contribution of \$100 per

capita during the Rotary year with every dues-paying member contributing at least \$25 to the Annual Fund, they received Every Rotarian, Every Year Club banners. These include **Monticello, Paris, and Tuscola**. One of only 3,800 clubs worldwide attain this status.

For clubs that achieved an average of \$100 in per capita giving and 100-percent participation, with every dues-paying member contributing at least \$25 to any Rotary Foundation gift designation during the Rotary year, they received 100% Foundation Giving Club banners. These clubs include **Monticello, Paris, Tuscola, and Vandalia**. One of only 4,500 clubs

worldwide becomes a 100% Foundation Giving Club.

Clubs that contributed at least \$1,500 to Rotary's polio eradication efforts received an End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign Certificate of Appreciation. Ten clubs received certificates including **Arcola, Bloomington, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise, Champaign, Decatur, Effingham-Sunrise, Monticello, Normal, Paris, and Vandalia**.

Congratulations and thank you, everyone, for your generosity to The Rotary Foundation during 2023-2024. Let's keep the momentum moving forward during 2024-2025!

'The Hub' Has Zone News

Click here to visit the Rotary Zones 30 & 31 website: "The Hub" to find:

- Zone 30 & 31 Programs & Groups
- Membership, Foundation, Public Image & Education Resources
- Links to Rotary's Support Center
- Rotary and The Rotary Foundation Administration
- Rotary's Strategic Plan and Action Plan

2024-2025 District Grants Cont.

Villa Grove – Community Development - \$1,950 The Rotarians of the Villa Grove club have plans to scrape and repaint picnic tables and a pavilion, paint an outdoor lavatory, assemble and paint additional new tables to make local Harrison Park more usable for local families and restore pride in the park. Grant funds will be used for paint, tables, and signage. Local newspapers can provide media coverage.

Basket Auction for PolioPlus Raises Record Funds

Thank you to the 29 clubs and individuals who donated baskets for the 2024 District Conference Basket Auction and the 29 people who purchased baskets. More than \$5,800 was raised for PolioPlus! This amount exceeds funds raised for prior Basket Auctions! All baskets were very creative and beautifully curated.

Thank you to Assistant Governor Kenton Elmore (Champaign West) for preparing the Action Auction platform and Amy Brown (Champaign Rotary) for embellishing the basket descriptions for PDG Janet Ellis-Nelson to upload into our site! Effingham Sunrise Rotary had the most clever basket with \$200 in cash and \$300 in lottery cards. The winning bid far exceeded the basket earnings! Champaign Rotary's Illini Nation basket with luxury four-suite tickets in the Colonnades Club for the Illini vs. Michigan State showdown raised the most money: \$1,609!



Thank you to the following individuals and clubs for donating baskets: Arcola, Arthur, Bloomington, Bloomington Normal Sunrise, Bloomington Normal Sunset, Casey, Champaign, CU Sunrise, Champaign West, Clinton, Danville Sunrise, Effingham Sunrise, Eureka, Fairbury, Greater St. Louis Area Council Scouting, Janet Ellis-Nelson from Champaign, Jenette Jurczyk, Lincoln, Mahomet, Mattoon, Paris, PDG Surinder Sethi from Normal, PDG Jay Stortzum from Champaign and Winnie Stortzum from Arcola, Urbana, and Wayne Clark from Villa Grove Rotary.

Polio Update As of Oct. 16

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases								Date of most recent case
	Full year total						01 Jan-15 Oct ¹		
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024	
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	3	32	22-Sep-24
Afghanistan	21	29	56	4	2	6	6	22	30-Aug-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
Total (Type 1)	33	176	140	6	30	12	9	54	
Tot. in endemic countries	33	176	140	5	22	12	9	54	
Tot. in non-end countries	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	
No. of countries (infected)	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	
No. of countries (endemic)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	
Total Female	18	72	59	2	10	4	4	18	
Total Male	15	104	81	4	20	8	5	36	

Annual Conference a Success

Rotary District 6490 held their annual conference at the Holiday Inn in Champaign on October 4-5. Rotarians from around the district learned about the variety of Rotary programs that are currently in place and potential opportunities to support. Rich Churchman, from Louisiana, served as Rotary International Stephanie Urchick's President Representative. Vice Chair of The Rotary Foundation, Larry Lundsford, from Kansas City, Mo., gave a Trustee's Report. Past District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson from Champaign Rotary presented individual and club awards for the 2023-2024 Rotary year.



Past District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson presents the Large Club of the Year Award for 2023-2024 to members of Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club (left to right): 2024-2025 President Glenn Harbin, 2023-2024 President Sue Seibring, Laura Pritts, Julie Payne, Beverly Stevens, and Pat Messinger.



Left: Ellis-Nelson presents the Small Club of the Year for 2023-2024 to Arthur Rotary Club members Marsha Bowyer and Tanya Walker.



Right: Immediate Past District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson (left) presented **Kim Denton from Mattoon Rotary Club** with the **Rotarian of the Year Award for 2023-2024**. Denton was recognized for her efforts in making the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Camp meaningful and successful for the high school students who attended the camp. As a 4-H Youth Development Educator for the University of Illinois Extension, she led sessions for the National Curriculum and Training Institute on the Real Colors Personality Inventory, which revealed students' leadership styles. Denton also led a session on Business and Professional Etiquette and facilitated a presentation by Rotary Youth Exchange Students. In addition, she acquired all the materials and taught students how to make dog and cat toys, which were donated to area shelters.



Bottom left: District Governor **Mike Martin** from Mattoon Rotary Club presided over the conference.

Photos by Bill Malone, Champaign Rotary

District Conference Attendees Bring Donations for The Family Room

Several of the attendees of the District Conference held in early October showed up with their arms full of winter wear donations for Champaign County's The Family Room, a not-for-profit organization devoted to providing support to foster families and foster children.

Along with 17 winter coats of various sizes, 23 scarves, 65 pairs of gloves, and over 80 hats were collected over the weekend conference.

Some of the hats and scarves were even hand knitted! Thank you to all who contributed, for your generosity and your assistance in helping the Family Room provide winter wear to our local children.



Rotarians participate in the service project breakout session by assisting The Family Room with preparing clothing that will be sorted, organized, and packed into backpacks for children being placed with a foster family.

November Dates To Remember

DG CLUB VISITS:

Nov. 5: Pontiac

Nov. 6: Effingham

Nov. 19: Marshall

Nov. 23: Moraine View



B-N Sunrise, Pub Club Rotarians Honored



On Oct. 3, the Annual Leaders of Distinction Awards, hosted by The McLean Chamber of Commerce and The Pantagraph, honored a remarkable group of individuals whose contributions continue to enhance their community. Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotarian Sue Seibring (left) received the 2024 ATHENA® Leadership Award, and fellow club member Samantha Mlot (bottom left) was honored with the 2024 Liz Larson Rising Leader Award! Additionally, there were other finalists from the club, including Lindsey Meister and Jolene Aldus. In total, four out of five finalists were from BN Sunrise.

Right: On Oct. 3, two Pub Club Rotary of Bloomington members were honored at the Leaders of Distinction Awards for 20 under 40. Chad Hoffman and Chase Kusnerik (not pictured).





Marcie Albrecht, Monticello
Doris Batts, Urbana
Rob Bross, Monticello
Kenneth Bunker, Arcola
August Christhilf, Champaign
Benjamin Crane, Arcola
Joshua Dudek, Pontiac
Nathan Hamm, Decatur
Broc Hemrich, Newton
Laura Hughs, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Paul Kabbes, Normal
Dana Klauss, Moraine View

New Members in DACdb as of October 29th

John Namoff, Champaign
Joel Prichard , Champaign
Peggy Prichard , Champaign
Melody Robertson, Pontiac
Makiya Thomas, Urbana
Nancy Uchtmann, Urbana
Matt Williams, Champaign (West)
Nate Zarzar, CU @ the Rotary

New Members in DACdb as of October 29th





Give the Gift of
Rotary



Congratulations

2023-2024 Award Winners

Large Club of the Year: Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary

Small Club of the Year: Arthur Rotary

Re-energized Club of the Year: Normal Rotary

Make It Happen Awards:

Tina Marlett, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary

Tanya Walker, Arthur Rotary

Tina Stovall, Mattoon Rotary

New Rotarian of the Year: Tiffani Henry, Urbana Rotary

Rotarian of the Year: Kim Denton, Mattoon Rotary

District Hall of Honor: Doug Schwalm, B-N Sunrise Rotary

Club Avenues of Service: Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary

Community Avenues of Service: Champaign Rotary

Vocational Avenues of Service: Urbana Rotary

International Avenues of Service: Decatur Rotary and

Bloomington-Normal Sunset Rotary

Youth Avenues of Service: B-N Sunrise Rotary

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.