



Rotary

District 6490



District Governor Mike Martin

Promoting Peace

“What the “heck” is going on in our world?” Someone asked that question during the Zone Summit in Huntsville. If you have similar questions, you have likely also asked yourself, “What can I do to help create a brighter future? What can Rotarians do?”

More than 20 years ago, Rotary began training professionals to become facilitators for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Now, Rotary Peace Centers, located at top universities around the globe, have trained nearly 1,800 peace fellows who work to facilitate peace and conflict resolution in more than 140 countries. The newest center, located at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Türkiye, will welcome its first class in early 2025.

The Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) serves as a resource to the Rotary community and “is on a mission to engage, educate and empower the Rotary network to advance peacebuilding worldwide.” A **Together for Peace** webinar series, workshops, **Activate Positive Peace** workbook, and the **Peace Primer** are a few examples of their work.

The RAGFP Peacebuilder Club (PBC) program is an essential participant in Rotary International’s Peace Area of Focus. PBCs engage in positive peace projects and initiatives within their local communities and collaborate with other PBCs globally. I encourage you to visit Rotary Action Groups for Peace: <https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/> for information regarding becoming a Peacebuilder Club.



February is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month for Rotary. February is also significant for Rotary because it includes the anniversary of the first Rotary meeting, held February 23, 1905, in Chicago. This day is now known as World Understanding and Peace Day. During February, Rotarians around the world celebrate their commitment to peace and conflict prevention.

Every day, not just in February, Rotary works to create environments where peace can happen.

We create environments of peace through projects in our clubs and communities that address underlying causes of conflict including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.



Currently, the Decatur club is supporting two single-parent families who fled Ukraine by sponsoring them to relocate to Decatur. Rotary is helping the parents find employment, learn English, and obtain public education for their children.

Urbana and Decatur Rotary clubs have installed peace poles throughout their communities to recognize their commitment to facilitating peace. The peace poles display the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in multiple languages.

Mattoon Rotary will dedicate its first peace pole, established through collaboration with the departments of International Studies and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging at Lake Land College, at Lake Land on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Please join us for the celebration!



Rotary believes that peace is central to everything we do. The opportunities to help facilitate peace are endless.

For more ideas about projects for peacebuilding and conflict resolution, visit the Rotary Showcase, where you will find projects for your club or our district to consider.

You can also add your voice to the conversation by using the blog’s comment feature and share your club peace and conflict resolution initiatives.

For more information about Rotary Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, please visit: <https://learn.rotary.org/members/pages/36/course-catalogs>.

You can also learn about the Rotary Positive Peace Academy at <https://www.positivepeace.academy/rotary>.

Thank you for all that you do for Rotary. And, as always remember, be kind. It costs nothing.

Mike Martin
District Governor 2024-2025

D6490 PDG Connie Walsh Honored

Connie Walsh joined the Rotary Club of Champaign in 1998 and has enjoyed being an active part of numerous club committees over the years. She was Club President in 2017-2018, Club Foundation President in 2010-2011, and named Rotarian of the Year for 2010-2011. She is a graduate of the Rotary Leadership Institute. Connie is a member of the Paul Harris Society, and she and her husband, Pat, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.

At the district level, Connie served as District Governor in 2022-2023 and is currently serving as District Rotary Foundation Chair for 2024-2027.

In addition, she has served in a variety of roles including Assistant Governor for two years, Area President's Council, Foundation Fundraising Committee Chair, Visioning Committee (including directing the Visioning Process for the Champaign Rotary Club), Foundation Dinner Chair, and District Insurance Representative. Connie helped plan the Presidents-Nominee training for the 2020-2021 Land of Lincoln (LOL) Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) program and served on the LOL PETS Executive Committee in 2021-2022. Connie attended the Zones 30 & 31 Zone Institute in 2021-2024 and Rotary International Conventions in Atlanta (2017), Houston (2022), and Melbourne (2023).

Connie was born and raised in Decatur, Ill., where she graduated from Lakeview High School. She served in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer and after training at Fort McClellan, Ala., was stationed in Germany. Connie has a Bachelor of Arts from Eastern Illinois University, a Master of Public Administration degree from Governors State University and earned a Doctor of Public Administration degree in 2009 from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Her dissertation research focuses on discretion in the administration of federal policies and expands workforce development research. An in-depth examination of the organizational structural design of programs and workforce development implementation strategies in Illinois was conducted.

Connie served in several areas during her 33 years at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign including human resources, data programming and analysis, and business and financial services. Connie retired in December 2018 as the Chief Financial Officer for the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI).

Connie enjoys volunteering in the Champaign area including serving on the Board of Directors for the Developmental Services Center (DSC), where she has served as Board Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. She was event co-chair for a large annual fundraiser for DSC for several years.



Pat and Connie Walsh

Connie and her husband, Pat, live in Champaign and have a combined family of four children and 11 grandchildren. Her hobbies include spending time with family and friends, traveling, playing golf with her husband, attending sporting events, and reading.



(L-R) Champaign Rotary Club member and PDG, Connie Walsh and her husband, Pat, after being recognized as Major Donors Level 1 by D6490 Governor Mike Martin.

"For me the amount of donating is not the focus but rather the commitment to give back in whatever ways that I can. My husband Pat and I feel truly blessed, and we will continue to make a dedicated commitment to making a difference in the lives of others in whatever ways that we can." — Connie Walsh

D6490 Rotarians Honored Cont.



(L-R) Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club President and D6490 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Sub-Chair Glenn Harbin and Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club member, Paul Harris Fellow, and D6490 Visionary Project Chair, Krishna Balakrishnan were recently honored as Major Donor Level 2 (Harbin) and Major Donor level I (Balakrishnan) by D6490 Governor Mike Martin.

Harbin also was recognized as a Bequest Society Member Level 1.



Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club members (L-R) Lillian Krueger, Sue Seibring, Pat Messinger, Tracy Patkunas, club President Glenn Harbin, D6490 Governor Mike Martin, Erin Jensen, Peggy Hardy, Kimberley Schoenbein, Lindsey Meister, and Felicia Auth during the District Governor's official club visit.

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

Basket Auction for PolioPlus

The Annual Basket Auction for PolioPlus will open virtually a few days prior to the 2024 District Conference and will continue through the end of the conference on Saturday, October 5. Each Rotary club is being asked to donate a basket or other items for the auction.*

***Clubs or individuals may donate single items or gift certificates instead of a basket.**

Clubs need to bring their baskets to the District Conference at the Holiday Inn, 101 Trade Center, Champaign, on Friday, October 4, so they can be displayed during the conference. Each club will be responsible for getting their basket to the winning bidder after the conference, if the winner is not in attendance at the conference.

Please email a picture of your club's basket and the following information to Janet Ellis-Nelson at janetnelson1994@gmail.com on or before September 23:

Club Name: _____

Estimated Basket Value: \$_____ This basket includes: (Please list the contents of the basket.)

Baskets do not need to be wrapped in cellophane.



Skinner on Proposed Legislation

PDG and D6490 Council on Legislation (COL) Representative, Liz Skinner, will make a breakout session presentation regarding the 2025 COL of Rotary International (RI) during the 2024 District Conference.

The breakout session begins at 9:30 AM, Saturday, October 5. The presentation will update attendees on the role of the Council and its significance for clubs, as well as share information and solicit input on items coming before the Council, April 13-17, 2025, in Chicago.



The Constitution of Rotary International provides that the COL meet every three years at a site determined by the RI Board of Directors.

The legislation was proposed to the 2025 COL by clubs, districts, the general council or conference of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, and the RI Board.

The legislation is sent to the governor of each district and all members of the Council in English by September 30, 2024.

Polio Update As of Sept. 18

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases								
	Full year total						01 Jan-17 Sep ¹		Date of most recent case
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024	
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	2	17	17-Aug-24
Afghanistan	21	29	56	4	2	6	5	19	10-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	7	36	
Tot. in endemic countries	33	176	140	5	22	12	7	36	
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	3	11	
Total Male	15	104	81	4	20	8	4	25	



RICHARD “BIG RICH” CHURCHMAN



Since his induction into Rotary on February 1, 1994, Big Rich has demonstrated unwavering commitment and maintained perfect attendance. His leadership roles include serving as District Governor in 06-07 and DRFC as a Future-Vision Pilot District. He currently serves as District 6200 Foundation Stewardship Subcommittee Chair, chair of the Ole Man River Multi-District PETS, and immediate past chair of the Multi-District PETS Alliance.

At the Zone level, Big Rich's service is extensive and diverse. He has held roles such as ARRFC, EPNZC, RRFC, and lead Zone Trainer/Facilitator for GETS, GNTS, and Institute. His international experience includes serving as an Assistant Chief Sergeant at Arms for several International Conventions and as an International Assembly Training Leader for two years. Currently, he serves as a 20-26 TRF Cadre member in the Disease Prevention & Treatment and the Water & Sanitation Areas of Focus, delegate to the 2025 COL, as an Assistant Rotary Coordinator, Zone 31 Calgary Promotions chair and as the CADRE technical officer on the Operational and WASH RAG boards.

He has received RI's "Avenues of Service" Citation, the RI's "Service Above Self" award, The Rotary Foundation's "Citation for Meritorious Service" and The Rotary Foundation's "Distinguished Service Award." He and his wife Amy are both charter members of RI's Bequest Society, Benefactors, and Major Donors and charter members of the District 6200 Paul Harris Society and PolioPlus Society.

Richard belongs to several Rotary Fellowships and Rotary Action Groups. He has been active in dozens of Short-Term Mission Trips to countries such as Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, El Salvador, Kenya, and Tanzania.

LARRY LUNSFORD



Larry Lunsford serves as a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation for a four-year term 2021-2025. After serving as Vice-Chair for the 2022-23 Rotary year, as Executive Committee Chair for the 2023-24 Rotary year, the Trustees elected Larry to serve as Vice Chair for this 2024-25 Rotary year.

Larry's passion for Rotary and his invitation into the family of Rotary began during his college years when he was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Macon, Missouri and selected as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar to Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia in 1982.

Larry joined the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri in 1991. He served as his club's President in 1997-98, served as District Governor of District 6040 (Missouri) in 2001-02, and served as Rotary International Director in 2013-15.

As District Governor, Larry helped lead the "Missouri Rotarians for New York" statewide service project that raised over \$100,000 in 2001 for those affected by the events of 9/11. For the past 23 years, Larry has served as the Shoes Cheerleader for his District resulting in efforts which have collected nearly 440,000 pairs of new shoes through the Shoes for Orphan Souls project in partnership with Buckner International. The Shoes project has taken him to Russia, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic to deliver new shoes to orphan children in those countries. Larry served as Chair for his District's Rotary Foundation Centennial Legacy Dinner in 2017 which raised \$3.3 million for our Foundation in outright gifts and commitments.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CLICK [HERE](#) TO
REGISTER NOW!**



**REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON.
DO NOT MISS THIS CONFERENCE!**

Honor A Rotarian

**District Conference
Friday October 4th
4:15PM**

We are holding a Memorial Presentation for all those Rotarians that have passed away within the past year.

If you would like to honor a Rotarian in your club that has passed away in the past year, please provide the following information

Name of Deceased Rotarian

Years of Service

Club Name

Please Include Photo

to Ashley Dillingham at
ashley.dillingham@hshs.org

Thank You

Rotary
District 6490



**New & Gently Used*
Winter Gear Donations Needed
for Children of All Ages!**

OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2024

**2024 District Conference
The Family Room**

**Holiday Inn & Conference Center
101 Trade Centre Drive
Champaign, IL 61820**

**Coats, jackets, sweaters, snow pants, boots, hats, scarves,
gloves, mittens, galoshes, and other winter gear for children
of any age, clean and in good condition, accepted.**

***DAMAGED ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

DONATED ITEMS BENEFIT FOSTER FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

October Dates To Remember

DG CLUB VISITS:

- Oct. 8: Newton
- Oct. 9: Dwight
- Oct. 10: Villa Grove
- Oct. 15: Clinton
- Oct. 16: Hillsboro
- Oct. 17: Arthur
- Oct. 21: Decatur
- Oct. 23: Mahomet
- Oct. 24: Bloomington-Normal Daybreak
- Oct. 29: Rantoul

Seeking Club Coordinators for Disaster Response

This year, the D6490 Disaster Response Committee will ask each club to appoint a Club Coordinator for Disaster Response.

Please join Committee Co-Chairs Matt Hausman and Tina Stovall to learn more about the D6490 Disaster Response Plan and the role that Club Coordinators will play during the Preparing Your Club for Disaster Response breakout session, scheduled Saturday, October 5, 3:15-4:15 PM. Hope to see you there!

2024 District Conference House of Friendship

Please stop by, say hello, and share your club's projects and success stories in the House of Friendship on October 4 and 5, during the 2024 District Conference, at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Champaign.

To reserve your display table, contact DGN Deb West by **September 27, 2024**, at dwestrotary6490@gmail.com or call 940-782-5557.

District Governor Nominations Now Open

The process for selecting the 6490 District Governor for 2027–2028 has begun. There are many qualified leaders in our district, and Past Club Presidents are asked to consider serving in this important position. The *Qualifications, Requirements, and Instructions* for District Governor Nominees along with the Application and Background forms can be found by clicking [here](#).

All nominations for the office of District Governor must be approved by the Board of Directors or the membership of the applicant's Club, and all applications must be signed by the candidate and the Club Secretary.

Applicants are encouraged to read our District Manual of Procedures (located on the D6490 website [Rotary District 6490](#) under the *About the District* tab), and the RI Manual of Procedures and RI Code of Policies (both located on the D6490 website under the *About Rotary* tab).

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, October 21, 2024**. Please email the application to Past District Governor Janet Ellis-Nelson at janetnelson1994@gmail.com. If candidates have not received confirmation within 24 hours of sending the application, they should contact Janet by phone at 217-202-3898. Questions may be directed to Janet by email or phone.

Interviews will be held in-person on **Saturday, November 2**, in Champaign.

Rotary International and Zones 30 and 31 will provide ample training for qualified applicants to assume this important role. The friendships you will make with members and leaders in both District 6490 and with your District Governor classmates from Zones 30 and 31 will be treasured. You will also witness firsthand the amazing impact Rotary has throughout our district and around the world!

Like us on [Facebook!](#)



Theresa Mickey, Rantoul
Christina Reifsteck, Rantoul
Holly Thompson, Rantoul
Brandi Pierce, Champaign
Lori Stickling, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Chasen Hill, Metamora-Germantown Hills
Jennifer Summers, Rantoul
Robert "Butch" Dalhaus, Champaign
Lanna Bartko, CU @ the Rotary
Marnie Fuesting, CU @ the Rotary
Emily Mohr, Champaign (West)

New Members in DACdb as of September 18th

Brittany Meeker, Effingham-Sunrise
Danette Young, Paris
Nicki Hanks, Paris
Andrew Herman, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Leslie Schulte, Champaign-Urbana Sunrise
Megan Stark, Fairbury
Rita Schulte, Champaign-Urbana Sunrise
Chris Allen, Lincoln
Chelsea Edmonds, Paris

New Members in DACdb as of September 18th



Depolarize Red & Blue - Skills To Navigate Political Discussions



Lunch & Learn

Our event aims to address the negative impact of polarization on public discourse, policy-making, and personal relationships. We believe that by coming together, we can strengthen the foundations of our democracy and ensure that the American Experiment not only survives but thrives for all.

Speaker: Matt Hausman, Braver Angels
11:30 pick up lunch, presentation noon-1
Lunch from Great Harvest Bread

LOCATION:

First Presbyterian Church 2000 E College Ave.
Normal, IL 61761

DATE: October 17, 2024

TIME: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Braver Angels website: <https://il.braverangels.org/welcome>

Ticket link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DA9AD2CA3F9CE9-51009289-depolarize#/> Donation link: <https://givebutter.com/62TlhT>

