



March 20, 2025

The Rotary Club of Fort Smith meets weekly on Wednesday at noon at [Rolando's Restaurante](#) at [917 North A Street](#) in downtown Fort Smith.

Rotary 

THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



An Irish Musical Journey

Dr. Alex Zacharella, Director of Bands and Professor of Music at UAFS, took us on an engaging journey through the rich history of Irish music, blending cultural insight with musical storytelling at this week's Rotary meeting.

Her fascinating program explored the evolution of traditional Irish music, highlighting key instruments like the harp, fiddle, bodhrán, tin whistle, and bagpipes—some of which have origins tracing back to ancient civilizations, including the Romans, Greeks, and even Turkey!

In the perfect nod to St. Patrick's Week, Dr. Zacharella captivated the room with performances of two traditional Irish songs. For those who want to hear more, you can experience her talents along with the [UAFS Wind Ensemble at their concert on April 8.](#)

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Mid-America President-Elect Training starts today at the Fort Smith Convention Center, and the Rotary Club of Fort Smith is proud to be a sponsor of this year's event! As a sponsor, our members are invited to join tonight's (Thursday) social hour at 6 p.m.

Help us make a difference by bringing a pair of shoes to contribute toward the goal of 3,000 pairs. These will go to children in need
Yours in Service to Rotary,

Cindy Gilmer - President
Rotary Club of Fort Smith

Future Programs & Events

- March 26: Heather Sanders, Arkansas Family Alliance
- April 2: Elizabeth Johnson - Farmers Insurance
- April 9: Shea Foldvery - Fort Smith United Way
- April 16: Claire McClure - Fort Smith Public Schools, Northside Rising Freshmen Night
- April 23: Beth Presley - Fort Smith Boys and Girls Club
- April 30: Gary "Ax" Axley - International Military Student Officer, FMS
- May 7: TBD
- May 14: TBD
- May 21: TBD
- May 28: TBD
- June 4: TBD
- June 11: U of A Chancellor Charles Robinson
- June 18: TBD
- June 25: TBD

If you have suggestions for program speakers, please contact [Cindy Gilmer \(gilmercindy@att.net\)](mailto:gilmercindy@att.net) or [Chris Kelly \(cjkelly1012@gmail.com\)](mailto:cjkelly1012@gmail.com)

Next Week's Speaker



**Heather Sanders,
Director of
Operations &
Business
Development,
Arkansas Family Alliance**

Heather Sanders is the Director of Operations and Business Development for the Arkansas Family Alliance.

Arkansas Family Alliance focuses on three areas of support for children and families.

Prevention, helping keep children in their homes by meeting physical needs, mentoring, and training.

Permanency, believe every child deserves a permanent home.

Preparation, equipping foster youth as they transition to adulthood; training foster and adoptive parents for their unique parenting challenges.

Heather will speak about the AFA and CarePortal, a platform connecting churches with child welfare agencies.



Fort Smith Rotary celebrated for supporting fight against Polio

Past District Governor Pam Crawford made a special visit to this week's meeting to present past-President Jon Hendrickson with a certificate of appreciation for the club's generous support of the Rotary Foundation.

In 2023-24, members contributed \$1,500 to the district, helping to advance the global fight against polio.

2024-25 Rotary Club of Fort Smith Officers



Cindy Gilmer
President



Chris Kelly
President-Elect



Jon Hendrickson
Past-President



Andrew Hudgens
Past-President &
Foundation Chair



Drew Linder
Treasurer



Mary Lee Frase
Secretary



Phil Whiteaker
Sergeant-at-Arms



Charlie Platt
Assistant Governor

Important Dates for District 6110

- **2025/2026**
- March 20: Assistant Governor (AG) Training - Fort Smith, AR
- March 20-22, 2025: MAPETS - Fort Smith, AR
- May 2, 2025: Legacy (Foundation) Dinner - Rogers, AR
- May 3, 2025: District Conference - Rogers, AR
- June 21-25: Rotary International Convention - Calgary, Canada
- March 19-21, 2026: MAPETS - Fort Smith, AR

