

### The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
February 17, 2025  
Volume 107, Issue 31  
Rotary Club of Jonesboro  
P.O. Box 654  
Jonesboro, AR 72403  
Chartered August 1, 1919

### This Week's Program -- February 18, 2025

#### *CASA's Vision: Change a Child's Story*

As Executive Director of CASA, Angie Tate's goals are to enhance fundraising strategies, to increase program effectiveness by strengthening relationships with community partners, and to bring greater awareness to child abuse and neglect in our local communities. With strengthened partners, CASA is able to serve children and families involved in the child welfare system using a team concept and providing diverse resources essential to healing families in crises.



CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA of the 2nd Judicial District serves abused and neglected children in Craighead, Greene, Clay, Poinsett, and Mississippi counties. CASA of the 2nd Judicial District was founded in 1995 and is governed by a diverse board of directors made up of professionals from all across Northeast Arkansas.

Come and listen to Angie's plans for CASA and learn about CASA. Bring a friend or colleague for an informative program.

#### Soles for Souls

Dear Rotarian,

I am once again attending PETS training in March, as I prepare for the role of President. One of the wonderful opportunities this year is a shoe drive. Here is where you come in at. I am asking if you would consider donating a NEW pair of shoes: sizes 7-12 adult boy or girl, closed toe. These do not have to be the latest trending Jordan's by any means. Any place that sells shoes. Walmart, Target, Shoe Carnival etc.

If you would bring them to our weekly meetings between now and March 18, I will take them from there. I drive a big truck with a big truck bed so don't be afraid to load me down for my trip to Fort Smith!

I appreciate all of you.

Thnak You,  
Chad Chadwick

#### New Member

On February 11, we inducted **Andrew Nadzam** as a new member of our club.

*Welcome, Andrew!*



#### Condolences

We are saddened to share that Rotarian **Monty May** passed away on February 10. A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 15, at the Southwest Church of Christ.

#### Club Leaders



Jennifer Hannah  
Treasurer-Elect  
President



Chad Chadwick  
President-Elect



Alicia Dyer / Benson  
Secretary



Jeremy Todd Watson  
Treasurer

#### Events

February 18th  
**Jonesboro Club Meeting Feb 18- Angie Tate, Exec Director, CASA**

**Speaker:** Angie Tate, Exec Director, CASA and Brad Crawley, VP, CASA Board of Directors  
**Subject:** CASA's Vision: Change a Child's Story

#### Birthdays



Gary Clark  
February 19th



Robert C. Green  
February 21st

Jeremy Todd Watson  
February 24th



Don O'Neal  
March 5th



Samuel Craig  
March 9th



H. Steve Leslie  
March 10th



Melissa Martin  
March 12th

Our condolences go out to **Bonnie May** and Monty's family.

## Taking Action for Change

We are at a defining moment in Rotary's history. We're implementing our Action Plan, a strategic road map that will help us better connect with each other, grow as an organization, and more effectively share our stories of how we are making a difference in communities.

At every level of Rotary, we have embraced opportunities to work together to achieve our goals. Over the coming four issues, you'll hear from Rotary members around the world who will offer their inspiration, encouragement, and guidance as we carry out the four priorities of the Action Plan.

### IMPACT

We want to put our resources behind programs that will have the greatest impact and that align with our areas of focus.

We're creating tools and guidelines for tracking and sharing our efforts. We're also developing an evaluation process that will help us make objective recommendations about what is working and what we should continue, start, or stop doing.

### REACH

We're committed to exemplifying and embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in everything we do.

We're testing new products and alternative models that will allow more people to connect and take action with us in ways that work best for them.

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### ENGAGE

We're tearing down the walls between "us" and "them" and focusing on participants.

We're asking people how they want to participate, finding ways to meet them where they are, and making sure they know we value them.

### ADAPT

We're streamlining operations so we can be more agile and responsive.

We're simplifying the way we do things and helping members manage change so that our clubs, districts, and zones can more effectively communicate and work together.

Learn what your club can do at [rotary.org/actionplan](https://rotary.org/actionplan).

## Good News – February 11, 2025

**Mike Payson** carried the mic for Good News. **Shaila Creekmore** took notes.

**Mike Payson** said that although our weather wasn't great, he was glad to not be up north where his daughter was reporting much colder temperatures.

**Gregory Hanson** was participating in Darwin Day the following day and would be sharing about the connections between science and the humanities.

**Bob Appleton** had celebrated his mother's 99th birthday the evening before.

**Norman Stafford** said he was already celebrating A-State's two big basketball wins that would happen later that night.

**DG Brian Rega** was happy to see a great crowd including a number of guests and says he doesn't always see that when he is visiting other clubs on the road.

## Last Week's Program – February 11, 2025

By Shaila C Creekmore

*St. Bernards Maternal Life 360 Works to Reverse Low Maternal and Infant Care in Arkansas*



Emily McGee, Vice President of Nursing at St. Bernards Healthcare, spoke on Tuesday about the dire need for better maternal and infant care in Arkansas and how St. Bernards is working to make improvements.

St. Bernards Maternal Life 360 was created in response to seeing an increased number of high risk patients discovered during clinic visits and the high number of mothers being sent to St. Bernards emergency department due to the hospital having the only Level 3A NICU in the area. Through an in-depth social determinant of health screening, a number of risks were identified.

In April 2016, St. Bernards Pregnancy Clinic was opened to primarily care for Medicaid patients who typically seek out healthcare much less than insured patients. The clinic was expanded in April 2024 and some of its services are now also offered to insured patients through a Blue and You grant.

Currently, Arkansas has a failing grade in preterm birth with a 12% preterm birth rate. While a number of factors cause these issues, one of the key factors is unavailable care in some communities. Emily said that just two years ago, there were 37 hospitals that provided delivery care and now only 34 are open to delivering babies. Newport's hospital is among those who recently stopped deliveries due to not having enough obstetricians and pediatricians available for round-the-clock care.

To meet the needs of more rural areas, St. Bernards expanded their Pregnancy Clinic to Lawrence Memorial in July 2023, which had such a great response that the clinic is now offered twice a week. This past year, a clinic was opened in Osceola in June, and it likewise moved quickly to two days a week to meet the need. In response to the closure of maternal care in Newport, St. Bernards Pregnancy Clinic opened in Newport in October.

These clinics provide prenatal visits, ultrasounds, lactation consultations, maternal substance abuse care, behavioral health services. In addition to this care, Emily said Maternal Life 360 has joined the group Parents as Teachers to provide training and help to parents. This program provides a person-centered action plan with home visiting services and coordination of medical services until the child turns two years old.

Emily said she and others are hopeful that Governor Sarah Sanders' recent announcement of a \$45 million Medicaid funding expansion for maternal care will further the care available for mothers and newborns in Arkansas and that better outcomes are soon to come.

## Report Card -- February 11, 2025

Total Members = 115  
Active=76  
Active-Modern=3  
Active-Partner=3  
Active-R85=15  
Active-Service=16  
Staff Position=2

Active-Service: 4  
Active-Modern: 1  
Active-R85: 6  
Active: 29  
Guest: 6 [Read More](#)