

The Rotary Spokesman

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of West Pine Bluff

Wednesday, March 5, 2025



Jefferson County Foster Care Coalition Program Presented



Candace Jordan, Director of the Jefferson County Foster Care Coalition, addressed the club on February 6, 2025 for our community program. She shared her personal story of interaction with the foster care system and her work to make a difference in the lives to make life better for the children and families involved in it. She also told us of the services that the coalition provides. One of note is the Provision Care Closet that they operate for the benefit of the clients they serve. They help meet the needs of the clients, children, parents, and families, as best as possible. They are in need of a larger space for their work, and they are in the process of renovating a larger building that was donated to them. However, additional funds are needed for the project. February is a period during which donations will be matched dollar for dollar by a very gracious donor.

Thanks to David Sims for arranging the program and coordinating a service project to be conducted on Saturday, 8 February 2025 at the Care Closet.

Judge Kim Bridgforth Riding Out the Budget Dispute Storm

Jefferson County, Arkansas began the year with some stormy relationships at the County Courthouse, but Judge Kim Bridgforth and vital personnel in her division of the district court rode out the storm and stayed on task. With a limited office staff, her court was able to continue operations while the storm of budgetary disagreement was at its peak. She gave praise to those personnel in her office who continued to come to work each day without pay so the cases that came before her court were handled in a timely manner.

Some of the personnel chose to stay at home while the budget storm wreaked havoc on many of the county's personnel and its services. "That was understandable," said Judge Bridgforth. Many offices were closed while the destructive winds of juxtaposition blew. There was even a short while when an unpaid utility bill threatened closure of her court, but a good relationship with the right personnel was able to resolve the matter in an expeditious manner. Those times were difficult for many of the county offices. But relief came when the State legislature passed a law that allowed usual operations to resume. Provision was made for those who had been forced to miss work

Club Meeting

West Pine Bluff Meets at Pine Bluff Country Club with Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 882 2017 7860 Password: wpbrotary 1100 W. 46th Avenue Pine Bluff, AR 71603 Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

In This Issue

[Jefferson County Foster Care Coalition Program Presented](#)

[Judge Kim Bridgforth Riding Out the Budget Dispute Storm](#)

[Discover Rotary](#)

[March 2025 Schedule of Activities](#)

[Rotary Direct: An Easy Way to Give to the Rotary Foundation](#)

[Polio Update - February 25, 2025](#)

[Weekly Club Meeting Invitation](#)

Club Leaders



[Miloud Bahadi](#)
President



[Kevin Harris](#)
Club Programs Chair
President-Elect



[Michael S Heisler](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms
Service Projects Chair
iPast



due to the turbulent forces of disagreement and unreconciled differences. They were paid for the time they missed. The commitment of good people made the difference. What an example this was for Rotarians to follow! When times are challenging, we are expected to exemplify Service above Self and be People of Action, finding and instituting solutions rather than standing by and criticizing. Thanks, David Sims for arranging this program.

Discover Rotary

On Tuesday evening, 11 March 2025, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM, we will host our second Discover Rotary event as part of our efforts to grow Rotary and expand our reach in our community to create lasting change. Every member of the Rotary Club of West Pine Bluff is charged with inviting prospective Rotarians to this strategic Rotary Information gathering. It will be good for each member to not only invite others but to also attend the session as well. We are People of Action giving Service Above Self.

President



David L. Sims
Rotary Foundation Chair



Nyeshia Aldridge
Club Director



Roy W. Ferrell
Club Director
Sergeant-at-Arms



Santrice M. Kearney
Club Director



ShaNeisha E. Robinson
Treasurer



Scott Kirk Solomon
Public Image Coordinator
Public Relations Chair



Robert Jaye Thompson
Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms
Membership Chair

Linda F. Bateman

You're Invited to...

Rotary Club of West Pine Bluff

DISCOVER ROTARY

Join us for a Rotary Information Hour

March 11, 2025
6:00 – 7:00 PM
Exodus.Life
316 W. Sixth Avenue
Pine Bluff 71603

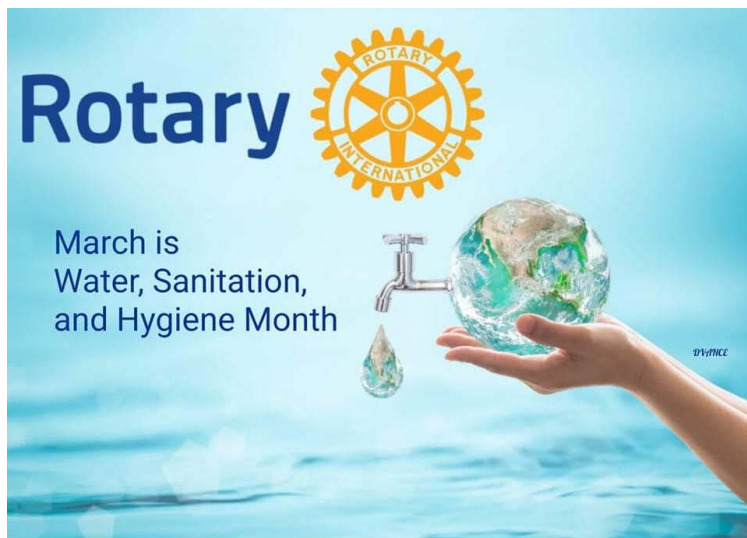


Rotary's Vision Statement
Door prizes
Light Snacks
RSVP Monday, March 10, 2025
Contact: Samarra – (870) 718-8775
Myra – (870) 413-1973
Robert – (870) 540-9576



Club Learning Facilitator

March 2025 Schedule of Activities



Date	Program/Speaker/Activity
March 6	Carmen Barnes, Pine Bluff Country Club
March 11	Discover Rotary, (Prospective Member Information Hour) 6-7 p.m. Hosted by Myra and Samarra @ Exodus.Life, 316 W. 6th Avenue
March 13	Lunch Service at Neighbor to Neighbor, 1419 S. Pine St., 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
March 20	Ken Johnson, Pine Bluff Wastewater, Pine Bluff Country Club
March 26	Club Board of Director Meeting, Donald W. Reynolds Building
March 27	Club Assembly, Pine Bluff Country Club

Please invite and bring some prospective members to our Discover Rotary activity and plan to participate in our service project for the month.

March Program Chairman: Carmen Barnes

Upcoming Projects

April 24, 2025 - Challenge League Baseball Concessions

May 1, 2025 - Business Expo

2024-25 Program Coordination Chair: Kevin Harris

Rotary Direct: An Easy Way to Give to the Rotary Foundation

Did you know that our Foundation funded more than 1,400 global grants totaling over \$86 million last year? Or that, together with our partners, we've immunized more than 2.5 billion children against polio since 1988? As a Rotary Direct member, Rotarians make Doing Good in the World possible.

The recurring gifts of members help us address some of the most challenging needs in communities close to home and around the world. Because of the ongoing generosity of members subscribed to Rotary, no challenge is too great for us. I encourage every member of our club to become a subscriber to Rotary Direct. A recurring donation of \$10 each month will help open numerous opportunities to do good in the world. You can [DONATE](#) and subscribe now.

The Rotary Foundation team thanks you in advance for your support.

Polio Update - February 25, 2025

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases									
	Full year total							01 Jan-25 Feb ¹		Date of most recent case
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025	
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	74	0	3	06-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	0	4	
Tot. in endemic countries	33	176	140	5	22	12	99	0	4	
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	0	2	
No. of countries (endemic)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Total Female	18	72	59	2	10	4	43	0	3	
Total Male	15	104	81	4	20	8	56	0	1	

Polio this week as of 25 February

Officially reported WPV1 and cVDPV cases as of 28 January 2025

Wild poliovirus (WPV)

- Total global WPV1 cases in 2024: 99
- Total global WPV1 cases in 2025: 4 (compared with 0 for the same period in 2024)

Weekly Club Meeting Invitation

The Rotary Club of West Pine Bluff invites you to join us for our regularly scheduled meetings. Since the time of separation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have chosen to give members the option to meet virtually as well as in person. The invitation for our virtual meetings is below. All members are asked to place the meeting on their schedules and join us. Phone and computer connections are available. [Read More](#)

Birthdays

[Joe P. Dempsey](#)



March 18th

District Leaders



[Sherry E. Polsgrove-Taylor](#)
District Governor



[Jennifer Van Houtte](#)
DG-Elect



[Shawnee Michelle Cooper](#)
DG-Nominee / District Grants
Chair