

The Rotary Spokesman

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of West Pine Bluff

Monday, March 31, 2025



Discover Rotary - Expanding our Reach



Myra and Samarra were excellent hosts for our second Discover Rotary (Rotary Information Hour) that was held on Tuesday evening, March 11, 2025, at Exodus.Life. The atmosphere was warm and inviting when the group of prospective Rotarians gathered together. While most of the attendees were members and partners of their working staff, everyone expressed pleasure regarding Rotary and the information that was shared with them.

In addition to Myra and Sam being present, it was good to have David Sims present. The outcome is promising for new members. Our engagement in the community pays off as we keep the face of Rotary before those who do not know much about what we do.

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

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Club Leaders



[Miloud Bahadi](#)
President



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



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



[David L. Sims](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair
Nyeshia

April Schedule of Activities



April Activities Schedule

Date	Activity/Program	Location/Special Time
3 April	LaTisha Brunson, 100 Families Coordinator	Pine Bluff Country Club
10 April	No Meeting	
10 - 13 April	District 6170 Camp RYLA 2025	4H Center, Ferndale, AR
17 April	RYLA Student Recognition and Reports Joint Meeting with RC of Pine Bluff	Pine Bluff Country Club
24 April	Challenge Baseball League Service Project	5:45 P.M. @ Ed Brown Field, W. 34th Avenue and Catalpa

	Looking forward to May	
1 May	<i>Pine Bluff Business Expo</i>	<i>Pine Bluff Convention Center</i>

Kevin Harris, Program Committee Chairman

Water is Good for the Community



R. Lamont Davis kicked off our programs during this Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene month as somewhat of a last-minute speaker, but he did an excellent job of giving us an update on the activities of his employer, Liberty Utilities. Liberty is a subsidiary of Algonquin Power and Utilities Corporation, which is primarily based in the United States and Canada. Liberty's North American distribution operates in Arizona, Arkansas California, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas in the U.S. and New Brunswick, Canada. The corporation is the main water distributor in our area with the best water for human consumption in the state. The vast majority of their employees live in our community.

With an opening question regarding the source of our water, he made sure that those in attendance knew that our water comes from an underground aquifer, not the river, and the company is consistently making improvements to their delivery, maintaining and updating the system, and making our water quality better.

He started his presentation by telling about his community engagement because he has been a visitor and presenter at our meetings before, and he stated that he plans to join our club. Keep your fingers crossed.

Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility Program Presented

During our 20 March meeting, Rotarian Ken Johnson presented the program and gave an update on the Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility, over which he is the director. Did you know that Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility ...

- Maintains over 450 miles of collection lines (long enough to go from here to Houston)?
- Has over 52 Lift Stations in its network?
- Manages the largest municipal lagoon wastewater treatment facility in the country?
- Treats over 11 million gallons of wastewater per day?
- Has more than 7500 manholes in the system?
- Has received the National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Award for 16 consecutive years?

The utility operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide excellent wastewater treatment for more than 60,000 people who contribute from 70 to 200 gallons of water from showers and baths, dishwashers and washing machines, toilets and car washes each day. The millions of gallons of wastewater from residential and commercial customers travel through the system to the Boyd Point Treatment Facility that spans over 500 acres of treatment ponds. It is there that the water is treated for pollutants including organic material, dirt, fats, oils, grease, ammonia, nitrogen, and other harmful pathogens. The system is at risk of being slowed in this process when customers put unneeded and hazardous items into it. "Don't flush wipes," Ken said, "even if they say they are flushable." "Don't pour your grease down the drain. It coagulates and clogs the system."

This was a very informative program. By the way, they offer tours. Thanks to Carmen for asking Ken to make the presentation.



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.



[Aldridge Club Director](#)



[Roy W. Ferrell Club Director Sergeant-at-Arms](#)



[Santrice M. Kearney Club Director](#)



[ShaNeisha E. Robison Treasurer](#)



[Scott Kirk Solomon Public Image Coordinator Public Relations Chair](#)



[Robert Jaye Thompson Secretary Sergeant-at-Arms Membership Chair](#)



[Linda F. Bateman Club Learning Facilitator](#)

Polio Update - March 27, 2025

Country or territory	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases									
	Full year total							01 Jan-25 Mar ¹		Date of most recent case
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025	
Pakistan	12	147	84	1	20	6	74	2	6	10-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	2	7	
Tot. in endemic countries	33	176	140	5	22	12	99	2	7	
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	1	2	
No. of countries (endemic)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Total Female	18	72	59	2	10	4	43	0	4	
Total Male	15	104	81	4	20	8	56	2	3	

Polio this week as of 26 March

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: 7 (compared with 2 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. This is the weekly invitation that you should save and share with others. Fellowship is one of Rotary's core values along with service. Our meetings allow us to fellowship with each other and build relationships that bridge the divisions that we create in our community. We know that you and others are busy, so we ask you to plan to join us even if only for a short while so we will know how things are going for you. Everyone is welcome to our time of fellowship.

Topic: RC of West Pine Bluff Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220177860?pwd=bHdKL1VLHUyREtadXlsa0RiYXhlZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 2017 7860

Password: wpbrotary

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,88220177860# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,88220177860# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 882 2017 7860

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220177860>

Birthdays



[Michael S Heisler](#)
April 18th



[Linda F. Bateman](#)
April 28th



[Nyeshia Aldridge](#)
April 29th

District Leaders



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



[Jennifer Van Houtte](#)
DG-Elect



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