

Mid Year Conference: 21 February, 2025 – Gardendale Civic Center

Fellow Rotarians... somehow we are at the mid-point of our Rotary Year, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to thank all of you in person for the awesome work your Clubs have achieved already, and what you have in store for this Spring. Please join us in Gardendale for our Mid-Year Conference this month. You will have the opportunity to explore creative ways to grow your Club's membership, enhance your Public Image, learn more about the Rotary Foundation, and hear about strategic developments our District has in store for the betterment of our Clubs through utilizing Rotary's Action Plan. The Mid-Year Conference is a fun, energetic way to connect, network and socialize with Rotarians from across North Alabama – it is open to ALL Rotarians!

Our Keynote speaker this year is Rotary Peace Fellow Patricia Shafer, who will be fresh off a trip with Rotary Past International President Gordon McInally where they launched the new Lebanon Chapter Rotary Action Group for Peace. During Mid-Year, Ms. Shafer will be sharing her organization's work in Birmingham's inner-city school children. *For our service project this year, **please bring your favorite peace related book**, as we will donate them to Ms. Shafer for her Children's Peace Library initiative.*

Here are the details for our Mid-Year Conference – we hope to see all of you there!

Registration Link & Agenda: <https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77802964>

Location:

Gardendale Civic Center
857 Main Street
Gardendale, AL 35071

- Springhill Suites accommodations: Call Gen. Manager Dion at 205-285-8447 for \$118 discounted rate.
- **Offsite Location:** Thursday, 4:30 pm Mugshots (3339 Lowery Pkwy, Fultondale, AL)
- **Hospitality:** Thursday 7:30 pm @ Springhill Suites (260 City St, Gardendale, AL)
- **Friday Mid-Year sessions** will be in the expanded "Garden Suite": CAMELLIA, AZALEA, and DOGWOOD
- ***Bring your favorite peace related book for our service project***

District and Global Grant Training – Dates and Links to Registration

I cannot begin to express how humbled we all were during The Foundation Dinner this year by the Clubs who presented on their District and Global grants. The impact has been and will continue to be amazing, and I believe the Chair of the Trustees himself left very proud of the accomplishments achieved by Clubs in his home District.

I invite you to join us by initiating your own grant this year, District or Global, and enable your Club to spread the "Magic of Rotary" within your community or to communities far from home.

The first step in ensuring your Club is able to participate in tailoring the grant of their choice is to attend required grant training. For convenience, this year we are adding a third opportunity, and including two of our sessions during events where Rotarians will already be assembled.

Now is the time to begin thinking about your **2025-26 Rotary club district grants!** Please share with the person or people who will be involved in your club's district grant application for 2025-26.

As you may know, your club must be qualified by District 6860 to apply for a global or district grant. This is a requirement from The Rotary Foundation to receive grant funds. We have set up three district grant qualification meetings for 2025.



Register NOW for **District 6860 Grant Qualification Training on Thursday, February 20 from 9am-10:50am in Gardendale.** This meeting is at the beginning of the Pre-PETS meeting so your President-Elect has the option of attending district grant training before the Pre-PETS meeting.



Register NOW for **District 6860 Grant Qualification Training on Saturday, March 8th from 9am-11am** at Redstone Federal Credit Union - The Atrium in Huntsville.



Register NOW for **District 6860 Grant Qualification Training on Friday, April 4 from 9am-10:50am in Gardendale.** This meeting is at the beginning of the District Learning Assembly so a club member already planning to attend DLA can also attend district grant training.

These three meetings are for District Grant qualification only. **Someone from your club must attend one of these meetings for your club to apply for a 2025-26 district grant.** Please bring a computer or tablet to begin setting up your grant as we walk through the process.

NOTE: **Global Grant qualification training** will be held on a different date TBA via Zoom for clubs who are interested in applying for a global grant in the 2025-26 Rotary year.

Reminder: **Your 2024-25 district grant final report is due by May 31st** and must be completed to apply for a 2025-26 district grant.

A final thought on grants: Making a difference through vocational training

Did you know that Rotary and Rotaract clubs can use global grant funding to support vocational training teams? These groups of professionals visit another country to teach local professionals in a particular field or learn more about their own. [Get inspired by these examples](#) of members that made significant change in pediatric health care and wildfire preparedness through vocational training teams.

Feel free to contact [Holly Trawick](#) if you have any questions about grant training or registration.

District Rotary Foundation Dinner

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all our Rotarians across the District who helped make our annual Foundation Dinner through their attendance. Together we witnessed the collective impact and reach of the Rotary Foundation as empowered by you, when we all come together to improve our world, at home and abroad. We were able to celebrate the awesome projects our Clubs have engineered both for their local communities and for people in faraway lands. We also celebrated new levels of giving that has brought us to record levels of participation in events such as our Purple Pinky Campaign, our Polio Plus Society, Rotarians enrolled in Rotary Direct, and new members of our Paul Harris Society. It was truly a magical Rotary event – all thanks to the great work of our Clubs and the continued support of our donors and benefactors. The night was made even more special by having the Chair of the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation, our very own Mark Maloney, as our Keynote Speaker.

As I made my Club visits this past summer, I challenged each of our Clubs to help support our Foundation by encouraging members to join our District Polio Plus Society, become a member of the Paul Harris Society, and donate to the Foundation through Rotary Direct. I am proud to provide an update on our success to this point in meeting Chairman “Mark’s Magical Markers:”

For Rotary Year 2024-25 District Rotarians signed up for:

Rotary Direct:	39 new members (86 total) / 83% increase	: Mark's Magical Marker: 10% increase
Polio Plus Society:	59 new members (101 total) / 140% increase	: Mark's Magical Marker: 50 member chapter
Paul Harris Society:	20 new members (99 total) / 20% increase	: Mark's Magical Marker: Increase by 10

Clubs – this is an awesome testament to your commitment to empowering our Rotary Foundation to continue the great work Rotary accomplishes in the world and in our communities. Thank you for your overwhelming support; and remember, the year is only half over, so let's not stop. We won't be satisfied until we have ended Polio, eradicated cervical cancer, and even then, our ability to imagine new projects funded by new grants will never falter. Thank you for continuing to be an inspiration and to "Unite for Good" across our world.

The Rotary Foundation - Laying the Cornerstones for Peace in the World

The Rotary Peace Centers program offers fully funded fellowships to tackle conflict and challenges to development. Over 1,800 alumni work in 140+ countries, promoting peace and driving change.

At our Mid Year Conference on 21 February, you will have the opportunity to meet Rotary Peace Fellow Patricia Shafer, CEO of NewGen Peacebuilders, and learn about her initiatives for inner-city school children in Birmingham.

Our District proudly sponsors the Peace Fellows Program, supporting Rotary Positive Peace Activators. This month, RI President Stephanie Urchick will host Rotary's Peace Conference and celebrate the first class of Peace Fellows from the new Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul, Turkey.

Also this month, The Foundation Trustees are considering plans for an eighth Rotary Peace Center in Asia, aiming for peace centers on every inhabited continent by 2030.

Find Candidates for Rotary Peace Fellowships

Applications are now open for 2026-27 [Rotary Peace Fellowships](#). If you know any peace and development leaders in your community, encourage them to [apply](#) for a fully funded master's degree or professional development certificate offered through one of our Rotary Peace Centers at partner universities around the world. The possibilities include our newest center in Istanbul, Türkiye. You can also use the [referral form](#) to send information about applying to potential candidates.

Since 2002, more than 1,800 peace fellows have graduated from our Rotary Peace Centers. They now work in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and development roles in more than 140 countries. Follow the [Rotary Peace Centers' Facebook page](#) to learn more, or write to rotarypeacecenters@rotary.org.

For more information on Rotary Peace Fellowships, please contact [Bill Petty](#) or [Will Ratliff](#).

World Polio Day 2024 Report

This year, donors from around the world contributed more than US\$3.3 million in support of World Polio Day. Together, we can eliminate polio to ensure a healthier future for generations to come. [You can learn more on endpolio.org](https://endpolio.org).

Leaders in Giving: The Paul Harris Society

Paul Harris Society members made 22% of the gifts to the Annual Fund last Rotary year. The society is a network of dedicated Rotary supporters who have expressed their intent to give at least US\$1,000 each year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or approved Rotary Foundation grants. [Subscribe to the quarterly Paul Harris Society Resource](#) to learn more about this important philanthropic group or encourage members to join it today.

To learn more about the Paul Harris Society, and how to join, contact [Lori Moler](#).

Introducing Rotary International President Elect Mário César Martins de Camargo – “Unite for Good”

This week our District Governor Elect, Butler Cain of the Rotary Club of Florence, is attending International Assembly (IA) in Orlando, Florida. IA is an awesome experience, where Butler will have the chance to meet the District Governors from every Rotary District in the World! During this event, the Rotary International President Elect (RIPE) will address the District Governors Elect several times during the conference, relaying his priorities and goals for the upcoming year. Expect Butler to relay those during our upcoming Pre-PETS and District Learning Assembly. I've included RIPE Mario's message and call to “Unite for Good” as revealed during IA on Monday, 10 Feb 25 here:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/mario-cesar-martins-de-camargo-calls-on-members-to-unite-for-good>

So you will have an opportunity to learn more about RIPE Mario, I've included his bio for your awareness. I have had the opportunity to meet RIPE Mario at several events this past year, including IA and the Rotary International Convention in Singapore, and will have the honor of being his aide during MSPETS in Chattanooga this March. I can assure you Rotary will be in great hands during his tenure, and we can all look forward to his leadership and stewardship of our great organization.

Mário César Martins de Camargo
President-elect 2024-25
Rotary Club de Santo André
São Paulo, Brazil

Mário César Martins de Camargo is a business consultant to the printing industry and former director of Gráfica Bandeirantes, a printing company founded by his father. Under de Camargo's leadership, the company expanded to be a supplier of printed material for clients in Brazil and elsewhere in South America.

De Camargo attended military school and graduated from a secondary school in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, during a Rotary Youth Exchange program. He had a yearlong internship at MAN Roland, a printing press manufacturer in Offenbach, Germany, before he earned his undergraduate degree at the Fundación Getulio Vargas' São Paulo School of Business Administration. He also received his law degree from the Faculty of Law of São Bernardo do Campo.

He has led numerous professional associations, including as president of the Brazilian Association of Graphic Technology and ABIGRAF, the Brazilian Printing Industry Association. He was also delegate director of the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (FIESP) in the National Confederation of Industry, vice president of FIESP, and vice president of the Latin American Confederation of the Printing Industry. He received the Printing Leader of the Americas award from the Printing Association of Florida and the Global Presidential Print Award from NPES, the Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing, and Converting Technologies.

De Camargo joined Rotary in 1980 at age 23. A past director and trustee, he will be the fourth RI president from Brazil. He has volunteered for numerous roles including RI learning facilitator, zone coordinator for the Avoidable Blindness Task Force, Latin American coordinator for the Health Concerns Task Force, RI president's representative, and Council on Legislation representative. He has also served on committees including the RI Membership Growth Committee, The Rotary Foundation Programs Finance Committee, and the International PolioPlus Committee.

De Camargo says he is continually impressed by Rotary's global reach. "With Service Above Self, Rotary has created a unique global identity that is unlike any other I know," he says. "I think we all need to remember that we belong to an organization that opens up the world to us."

During the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020, de Camargo took on two projects: studying for (and passing) the bar exam — 38 years after attending law school — and learning Italian. He also enjoys reading history and biography books and appreciating good wine.

De Camargo has received The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Denise, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.

Don't Forget Your Club's Public Image

Along with words, images help tell your stories. Create and choose photos and videos in ways that reflect the principles of [ethical storytelling](#). Consider these tips:

- Show Rotary participants taking action.
- Feature real-life, everyday moments.
- Convey a sense of motion.
- Focus on just a few people that viewers can see well.
- Represent the diversity of your club and community.

Learn more about taking photos and using videos in Rotary's Brand Center, where you'll find examples of images that can strengthen your message, as well as images to avoid! Visit the [People of Action](#) page under *Our Brand* for photo do's and don'ts and the [Images and Videos](#) page in the *Brand Elements* area for guidance on videos.

For more information on how you can enhance your Club's Public Image through social media, press releases, and correct Rotary branding, please contact our District Public Image Chair, [Knox Richardson](#).

Lithium-ion Battery Recycling Opportunity for Clubs

There are numerous ways for Clubs to collaborate with other Clubs across our District, Nation, and World. I am including one such opportunity I received from the Vice-Chair of Rotary's Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) below. If you have any questions, Ms. Nolet's contact information is included at the bottom of her message, included here:

My name is Clari Nolet, I am the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG). I am also the head of the Lithium-ion battery recycling initiative. It can be difficult to scale the impact of what clubs do, but this is a way that it can be done! Please read the very brief email below to find out how easy it is for a club to hold an event and have your clubs get reimbursed for approved marketing materials up to \$200. We've held over 80 club and district-wide events across the US in the last few years. Encouraging your clubs to hold an event will scale the impact.

Project in a box – An easy to download Tool Kit is available with everything needed to educate the community and hold a successful lithium-ion battery recycling event.

Redwood Materials (recycling partner and only recycler of consumer lithium-ion batteries in the U.S.) **will reimburse clubs up to \$200** for approved marketing materials if a club holds an event in 2025 – **must sign up by May 1, 2025 to hold an event in 2025 to be eligible to be reimbursed.**

Can be done with 4-6 people and an event is 4 hours.

Helps recruit new members who are interested in the environment and they are typically younger.

95% of lithium, cobalt, nickel and copper are recovered from recycling and go directly into electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

30 minute Webinar (February 18th at 9:30 and noon PST) will go over all the details to sign up to attend here. If you can't attend, it will be recorded and sent if you register.

Be part of a significant impact initiative and encourage your clubs/districts to sign up. If you want to speak to clubs or DGs that have been successful, just let me know and I will connect you.

If you, or your clubs want more information email or call me:

Clari Nolet
Vice-Chair ESRAG
Los Altos California Rotary Club
ESRAG Initiative Lead for Lithium-ion Battery Recycling
Clari.nolet@esrag.org
650-224-4591

Rotary Remains Committed to Ending Polio – Adapts to Recent Organizational Shifts

Many of you are aware that last month, the United States Government announced plans to withdraw as a member of the World Health Organization (WHO). Many of you may be wondering how this will affect Rotary's Polio Plus program.

On 29 January, Rotary International issued a statement regarding the situation. Feel free to share with any of your fellow members that may have questions or concerns. The bottom line is that Rotary remains committed to ending Polio. Rotary is a resilient organization with numerous collaborations and partnerships and will navigate these recent changes to ensure the vaccination and eradication program stays active.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-response-us-withdraw-who>

Rotary Resources and Webpages

Over the course of my Rotary career, I've accumulated a wealth of reference information and resources, saving most of them as hyperlinks on my web browsers favorites tab. I'd like to share a few of the most helpful ones for you here so you can have them handy as needed. I hope these help!

- [The Rotary Foundation Reference Guide](#) provides an overview of Foundation programs and services.
- [Conducting Community Assessments](#) gives guidance on how to involve community members in setting priorities and designing a project.
- The [Rotary Impact Handbook](#) helps members make and carry out a plan to take measurements as part of their service projects so they can document the results.
- [Grant Responsibilities by Leader](#) explains club and district roles and lists resources to help leaders carry out their duties.
- Rotary's [Service Project Center](#) offers opportunities to manage your projects, share stories and suggestions, and find partners.
- The [Learning Center](#) offers many courses and resources, including information about fundraising and participating in grants.

I hope all of you have an awesome Rotary February. Our District will be ramping up events this Spring, so prepare for having the Rotary experience of the year at a venue of your choice; save the date and you won't regret the awesome memories and friendships that follow. I invite you to make as many of these worthwhile events as possible – and I look forward to sharing Rotary with all of you somewhere soon!

Regards,
David

[David W. Allgood](#)
District Governor 2024-25
Rotary District 6860

Save the Date Event Calendar

20-21 Feb 25: Mid-Year Conference & Pre-PETS - Gardendale, AL

20-22 Feb 25: RYLA at US Space & Rocket Center

22 Feb 25: RLI - Central United Methodist Church

24 Feb 25: Birthday of Rotary

04 Apr 25: District Learning Assembly - Gardendale, AL

10-16 Mar 25: World Rotaract Week

20-22 Mar 25: MSPETS - Chattanooga, TN (PE & PN)

30 Apr 25: RI Convention - Last Day to Register or Cancel

1-3 May 25: Multi-District Conference - Chattanooga, TN

31 May 25: RLI - Vestavia Hills Methodist Church

21-25 Jun 25: Rotary International Convention - Calgary, Alberta

RLI Session Dates:

22 Feb 25: Central United Methodist Church, Decatur, AL

19 Apr 25: Vestavia Hills Methodist Church, Vestavia, AL

Grant Training Dates:

20 Feb 25 - 9am-10:50am: Gardendale Civic Center, Gardendale, AL

8 Mar 25 - 9am-11am: Redstone Federal Credit Union - The Atrium in Huntsville, AL

4 Apr 25 - 9am-10:50am: Gardendale Civic Center, Gardendale AL