

The Connection

August 2019



Rotary District 6840

Connecting Southeast Louisiana and South
and Central Mississippi to the World

Most Important Message from District Governor

This may be the most important newsletter column I write during my term. It's no secret that, in the U.S. especially, Rotary is losing members faster than it is gaining new ones. **We have to turn that around.**

Some of the solutions are simple – just invite friends to join you at a meeting. Growing programs for young people is another that is also aligned to goals for more diversity in membership. Our upcoming *Vibrant Club* seminar is focused on more club-level initiatives.

Vibrant clubs will retain members and engage them in important service work. But at the heart of the matter is that **each** of us need to identify a short list of 3-7 potential members to invite to a club meeting or service opportunity. Right now, sit down and write down your list. Next to each name write the name of the event to which you will invite them. Think back about why *you* joined Rotary and see what you think will get your prospective members to join. Set a time when you will make the calls and *get into action!*

And I want to hear more about things that work at the individual and club level. Email me ASAP at Rotarybob2019@gmail.com. Your suggestions and, even more, how you have succeeded in adding Rotarians to your roster will be featured next month.

Let's do it!

Reasons You Should Attend the Vibrant Club Seminar

- Fundraising Ideas
- ClubRunner Tutorial-bring your laptop
- Excellent training for current and FUTURE club leaders
- Rotaract, Interact and Youth Exchange information
- Rotary Foundation concurrent seminar
- Public Relations Ideas
- My Rotary Tutorial

New District Newsletter Editor

Send all articles, photos with captions, comments and questions to the new editor of this newsletter. Articles and photos are due no later than the 25th of the month.

Lydia J. Alford / lydia@alfordlegal.com

Thanks to Dean for serving as the editor for the past year and best of luck to him at his new job.

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Important Dates and Events for your Calendar

2019

July

31	Deadline to pay RI and District Dues
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August Membership Month

17	Vibrant Club Seminar RSVP at rotary6840.org
8AM to 1PM	Pearl River Community College, Poplarville MS
1PM	DAC meeting COG meeting Nominating Comm mtg RSVP at rotary6840.org
25	Deadline to submit articles and photos for district newsletter- lydia@alfordlegal.com

November

8	Youth Exchange Application Due
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Club President Corner

Idea for club meetings: Appoint a club member as the convener of each meeting. Rotate the appointment alphabetically through your membership weekly. The Convener:

1. Arrives early at the meeting and greets each member
2. Leads the club in the Pledge and Four Way Test
3. Provides an inspiration through poetry, story or invocation
4. Shares a Rotary minute

Club Anniversaries

How does your club celebrate its anniversary?

At a club meeting? Formal dinner? Casual social?

Do you decorate the room? Balloons? Table favors?

Do you recognize your charter members?

Do you have a special program on your club history, highlight milestones, projects, etc.?

Do you invite special guests? Former members? City leaders?

Do you know the date your club was chartered?

July, August and September Anniversaries:

July: Bay St. Louis	07.29.25	94 years	Hattiesburg Sunrise	07.12.85	34 years
Aug: New Orleans	08.18.10	109 years	Lucedale	08.29.35	84 years
Sept: Biloxi	09.01.21	98 years	Columbia	09.28.23	96 years
Moss Point	09.07.27	92 years			

Attention Biloxi, Gulfport, Hammond and Pascagoula: You'll be celebrating 100 years in Rotary year 2021-2022. Make sure your incoming presidents/leaders are aware so your club can **CELEBRATE!!**

Speaker Ideas

See the extensive list of speaker ideas at rotary6840.org, under the Club/District Data tab. The list of speakers, organized by geography, includes more than 150 names, with contact info. Not only is the list valuable for the specific info provided, but it may spark ideas by your club program chairman.

Payment of RI and District Dues

Rotary International

RI dues are invoiced semi-annually based on reported membership to RI as of July 1 and January 1. Clubs will receive a one page invoice in July and January either by email or mail. The membership count cannot be changed. If your club has not received an invoice by July 31, contact Rotary.

Payment is due upon receipt but no later than July 31 and January 31. Clubs are delinquent if dues are not paid within 120 days and are subject to charter revocation.

District 6840

Invoices have been emailed to each club. Payment is now due. Contact District Treasurer, Patrick Bowes at pjbubab@bellsouth.net.

Membership Development

Looking for a way to describe Rotary to potential new members, then look no further than the RI vision statement:

TOGETHER we see a **WORLD** where **PEOPLE** unite and take action to **CREATE** lasting **CHANGE** across the globe in our communities and in ourselves.

Rotary: People of Action.

Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change.

WE CONNECT PEOPLE.

Together, we see a world where people unit and take action to create lasting change -across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES. We take action locally and globally.

WE SOLVE PROBLEMS. No challenge is too big for us.

Doing Good in the World You could mean the World to someone

\$100. Just \$100, can make a World of difference in the health and economic well being of millions of girls and women, and their families, by merely providing safe water through a local well.

If it is important to you that adult women worldwide have the opportunity to become economically independent, then you should donate \$100 to the Rotary Foundation. The duty to collect fresh water commonly falls on adult women. Can you image walking miles one way to the water source with a large empty container and then turn around and walk back with the same container filled with water? And repeat this every day, no matter the terrain, the distance, the temperature or weather conditions. Not only is it difficult to stabilize and control water filled containers, it is very heavy. As the miles creep by, the effort of these women is increasingly strenuous. We take for granted that fresh water will pour out with the mere turn of a knob. Well it could not be more different for millions of people worldwide.

What's \$100 to create the opportunity for these co-citizens of the World to redirect their time and effort to earning a living for their family? **If you care, give \$100 per year by signing up for Every Rotarian Every year at rotary.org.**



If you believe young girls will see a better future if they attend school, then you should donate \$100 to the Rotary Foundation. Often young girls in third world countries drop out of school so that they can retrieve water under the same conditions described above. This is a daily grind, so that it is impossible for these girls to attend school. That means they are uneducated adults, forever continuing generational poverty. If you want to make a life long impact on the life of young girls, ask your club to institute a practice of billing

members \$10 per month so that you and your club can make a difference in the World. Or donate directly to Rotary through Every Rotarian Every Year.

If it's important that your club be a part of Worldwide philanthropy in deed, not just word, then encourage your officers, directors and fellow club members to support the donation of club funds to the installation of a water well in a well-deserving community. This is easily accomplished by co-funding a Rotary global grant. Contact Greg Lier at greglier@rathborne.com to find out how your club can make a difference in the health and economic well being of those who so desperately need it.

REMEMBER, TO THE WORLD, YOU MAY BE JUST SOMEBODY,
BUT TO SOMEBODY, YOU MAY BE THE WORLD.



RC of Pascagoula
Horn Island
Cleanup



RC of Metairie
School Supplies



RC of Kenner School Supplies and Chromebooks

The RC of Kenner had a great time delivering supplies and Chromebooks to GT Woods School. Ms. Lashana Pollard, Principal, stated that she "was just amazed. This is really going to help our students and teachers in our 21st Century Classroom. We will be using the Chromebook laptops in a rolling computer lab and we truly appreciate Kenner Rotary and their donation of a truck load of copy paper and 13 Chromebooks. Kenner Rotary volunteerism fits well into the GT Woods mission statement of One Adult, One Child, One Day at a Time."

RC of Bay St. Louis Satellite Club

When Kids Win, Everybody Wins!

Bay-Waveland High School was delighted when gifted with a carload of school supplies from a supply drive sponsored the Bay St. Louis Rotary Satellite Club. This is the second year in a row (now with the main club sponsoring too) that supplies have been gathered just in time for the new school year, after a teacher in the club expressed her concern that the school supply drives focus more on young students. Since many older students face the same economic pressures, the club decided this was a perfect way to fill a need gap for the schools, because when the kids win, everybody wins!



Check out next month's newsletter for photos and articles
on RYLA 6840 and the RYLA North America Conference.