



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rotary Review

The Official Newsletter of District 6880

January 2024

JANUARY IS



Stay Warrmm!
Check on
pets, the
elderly, and
some
Rotarians who
do not like
cold weather!

6880

Ring in the New Year and an opportunity to *Create (even more) Hope in The World.*

The first half of this Rotary Year firmly reinforced my appreciation of our district Rotarians' impact in their communities and abroad. Clubs, large, small, and in-between, are actively making a difference in an array of ways, the value of which we sometimes tend to underestimate. As I traveled and met with Rotarians and Rotaractors throughout our district, I was blown away by inspiring stories of the accomplishments you have already achieved and the potential of projects still underway. The Purple Pinkie Donut Campaign's success speaks to your commitment to serving people we will never meet but who will remember what you, a Rotarian, have done. You are walking the talk. You have noteworthy stories that you really need to share in your communities.

Your friends and neighbors need to know more about your unselfish commitment of time, effort, and treasure to put substance to our motto of *Service Above Self* and our belief in the importance of unconditional service to humankind. Taking your club's light out from beneath the proverbial basket can reveal more Rotarian-minded people around you who will want to join your efforts as partners or even as new Rotarians. Let's bring them into this fantastic circle!

Our actions over the next six months will demonstrate the full measure of our service commitment as District 6880 Rotarians. Our contributions to the Rotary Foundation will make a difference locally and globally. Numerous community and global service projects underway will create hope in lives, locally and in this troubled and challenged world. During these next few months, we will also learn and share ideas at a Midyear District Conference & District Training Assembly in Troy and at our Multidistrict Annual Conference in Huntsville.

We are all grateful for the commitment of the incoming 'class' of club presidents who will invest their time in training at the upcoming Mid South PETS to help you achieve your club's goals. Find time also to thank our very knowledgeable DGE Howard Eddy, who will grow even more in his ability to lead us in the coming Rotary Year through his participation in the crucible of RI's week-long International Assembly, required training for all incoming District Governors from 220 countries and geographical areas. Together, these next six months are ours to finish what we've started and prepare for the next cycle of sustained service in our district and worldwide.

Most importantly, we thank YOU for all you have done and what you will continue to do in your unselfish efforts to *Create Hope in The World.*

Rotary International District 6880

2023-2024

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1	Rotary International Semi-Annual Report (SAR) & dues deadline to RI; District dues deadline to District Treasurer	May 30	Deadline to update membership for July SAR
Jan 19-20	District Mid-Year Conference Troy, AL	June 1	Deadline to submit District Grant Applications
Jan 8-12	International Assembly	June 15	Deadline to submit contributions to The Rotary Foundation for credit in the current year.
February 1	RYLA applications deadline		
Feb 29-March 3	RYLA @ Camp ASCCA		
February 1	Incoming Club Officers to be reported to RI	June 30	All activities completed in MyRotaryfor Rotary Citations for Clubs
March 1	Deadlines to submit District 6880 nominations for club and individual awards (See www.district6880.org)		
March 13	Assistant Governor training in Chattanooga, TN		
March 14-16	Mid-South PETS in Chattanooga, TN		
April-June	AG's make fourth quarter club visits		
April 15	Deadline for DG to submit Presidential Citation report to RI		
May 2-5	District Conference, Huntsville		
May 1	Final Report for District Grants due from club to District 6880		
May 1-31	AG's complete Memorandum of Official Visit and send to DG		
May 25-29	Rotary International Convention, Singapore		

Champion Named Member of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force for the United States

By: PDG Bruce McNeal

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Montgomery Rotary Club member Graham Champion has been appointed as Member of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force for the United States by Mark Maloney, Chair of the Rotary Foundation 2024 – 2025. The term of this appointment is effective July 1, 2024 and continuing through June 30, 2025.



Mark goes on to say in reference to Graham's appointment, "You have been selected for this appointment because I believe that you will add value to the committee given your experience and knowledge of Rotary, its Foundation, and its programs. Please know that all proposed committee appointments were reviewed by the Board of Trustees in advance."

Graham is a "mover and shaker" in his community and excels in all that he does. His resume is quite extensive, and he has played a key role in the success of our District 6880 including the successful Tuskegee Polio Recognition Project and Tuskegee HeLa Cell Recognition Project. He is currently President of the Tukabatchee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Graham has been a Rotarian since 2013, He served as Montgomery Rotary Club President 2019 – 2020 and has served the District as Assistant Governor and as District Membership Chair.

Graham is a Paul Harris Society member and a Paul Harris Fellow X6 as well a charter member of the Polio Plus Society.

Graham is the owner of Public Strategies, LLC and Government Relations Consultant.

We are proud to claim Graham as one of our own!



Our president Sue along with members David Vosloh and Mitchell Lee at the ribbon cutting for the new expansion for the South Baldwin Literacy Council. As a community engagement activity,

many of our members came together to help paint this building and have helped with a variety of other projects. Mitchell Lee works with the Literacy Council and is also our Sergeant in Arms and has been essential for helping our club get grants and involved with important projects in our community!



Our club took two weeks off from meeting during the holidays to be able to spend quality time with our families, but we are excited about our events and special projects in 2024!!

The Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club was in the holiday spirit as we gave back to our community through Service Above Self!



November 24- Continued service project work at Auburn University at Montgomery Trails Program. (below)



December 18- Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army. (above)

December 18-20 Sorting, Packing, and Delivering Christmas Food Bags to the Seniors through Meals on Wheels. (below)



December 16- MSRC President Anne Elizabeth McGowin participated in the Camp ASCCA Jingle Jump and exceed the clubs fundraising goal. (right)



The Tuskegee Rotary Club, with the help of a district grant, recently delivered 15 suitcases to Macon County DHR . The suitcases will be used by foster children who sometimes are relocated to new families. This was a need expressed by the Director of Macon County DHR.

‘For me, the Christmas season starts for real when St. Paul’s Episcopal School Choral Group graces our club!!!’, wrote ROTARY SUNRISE’s President **Dr. Robert McGinley** in his invitation to December’s first meeting.

Under the baton of St. Paul’s music director, **Jody Powell**, it was a wonderful Christmas concert, where the members of the Choral Group had to get up very early to present their excellent singing at 7am and in order not to miss school where exams had to be accomplished.

Jody mentioned in his welcome words that this performance has a long tradition and that he has been coming to ROTARY SUNRISE for more than 30 years!!!

Mobile Sunrise Rotary



A long-time tradition has been ROTARY SUNRISE’s ‘Bell Ringing’ for the Salvation Army. Our members with grandkids and dogs and an accordion and percussion cover one Saturday in

front of Sam’s Club in Mobile. It is fun for the members as well as for the shoppers, who are generous ‘givers’...maybe because of the Christmas music that is played?



2023 ended for ROTARY SUNRISE with a Christmas get-together at the festively decorated Country Club of Mobile.



Mobile Rotary Club



Pictures from Goodwill CDC
Christmas Party with Santa (Rotarian
Barney March)



Our Rotary guest speakers recently were Brian Williams and Derik Williams of Guard Your Man, a Montgomery non-profit that provides mentorship and education to underserved youth. (Pictured L to R: Derik Williams, VP Kimberly Baker, Brian Williams, Sr., and President Taylor Williams.)

Montgomery Rotary

The Williams brothers have an athletic background from their time at Jeff Davis High School and the University of Alabama. They use athletics to teach those in their program teamwork, leadership, character and resilience.

One of those ways is through podcasting, which involves digital storytelling. The Williams brothers say that there are nearly a half-billion podcast listeners worldwide. The youth in the program develop their research, writing and content creation abilities in forming their own podcast, then work on voice and diction and public speaking to reach their audience.

Other aspects of Guard Your Man include working on reading/math skills, ACT prep, mental health and understanding sexual assault issues.

Their five-week course currently has 12 students enrolled. The Williams brothers target students between 12-14 years old. Their office is in need of basic office equipment and technical equipment as they hope to reach more youth in the future



Past President Hal Bloom recognized Past President Graham Champion with a PHF+6 award.

A lifelong resident of Millbrook, Mr. Gothard earned his B.S. Degree in Forest Management, with Honors, from Auburn University. In 1998, Mr. Gothard joined the Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF), Alabama's oldest and largest citizen's conservation organization, as Executive Director. During his tenure, AWF developed the Alabama Nature Center in Millbrook, a facility that includes over 400 acres and a 23,000 square foot outdoor education facility known as The NaturePlex.

Mr. Gothard is a past President of the Prattville-Millbrook Sunrise Rotary Club, member of Coosada Baptist Church, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Elmore County Economic Development Authority, Alabama Forest Land Trust, Alabama Black Belt Adventures Association, National Wild Pig Task Force, and the Alabama Sportsmen's Foundation. He is a graduate of the Alabama Ag &



Our Rotary Club enjoyed guest speaker was Jessica Weyreuter – Founder/Executive Director -Dream Court, Inc. (Pictured L to R: VP Kimberly Baker and Jessica Weyreuter.)

Dream Court is a non-profit based in Montgomery Alabama, with chapters in Auburn, Huntsville, and Daphne. Its mission is to provide an adaptive tennis program to children and adults with physical and/ or

intellectual disabilities, striving for inclusion and acceptance. Dream Court's moto is "Serving Hope and Changing Lives." Through Dream Court, Jessica is able to provide complimentary adaptive tennis practices in the spring, summer, and fall for special needs athletes. Two competitive events are held each year, as well as various out state tournament travel opportunities, and social outings for Dream Court's athletes and families. Dream Court recently celebrated a huge milestone in 2023 – Ten years of service to Montgomery and the surrounding area. Through her mission, she has impacted the lives of 350 athletes with special needs and over 1000 volunteers.





Our club was busy in December... We also manage the Robertsdale Christmas Parade arranging the lineup and Santa and Mrs. Claus take photos with the children after the parade. It rained on us,



but everyone had a great time and so many people stood in the rain to catch some goodies. Santa said everyone in Rotary was good this year and we should keep it up!!!!



We made our annual visit to the William F. Green Veterans Home delivering gifts and visiting with the veterans. We sang Christmas carols in the halls and in their rooms. We also had some students from Robertsdale High School and a couple of teachers join us. The students delivered around 15 crochet Afghans to the veterans that they had made themselves.



themselves.

Christmas continued to be celebrated throughout December with at least two more events hosted by the Demopolis Rotary Club.



The most enjoyable meeting of each year is the annual **Kids at Christmas**

event. This year 19 elementary children who otherwise might not have a merry holiday, were treated to a shopping spree at Wal-Mart and a chicken nugget lunch with Rotarians on December 6. Chaired by **Carey Windham**, the event had a Rotary member or volunteer accompany each child. They picked out a

toy, new coat and shoes, pajamas, hat, gloves, socks, underwear and an outfit, all paid for by donations from members. At the meeting the children introduced themselves and told of the favorite gift they received that day before boarding the bus and heading back to school.

Club members and their families enjoyed a **Christmas Party** December 13, the last gathering before the holiday break. Held at the Demopolis Country Club, the party got everyone into the holiday spirit when both children and adults joined in playing Reindeer Games.



The last speaker for the 2023 year was **Tanya Carter**, executive director of the Lighthouse Women's Center in Demopolis. The center is a pregnancy medical clinic offering free and confidential services to women, men and families facing an unplanned pregnancy. Serving all or part of five west Alabama counties, the Lighthouse Center has seen phenomenal growth since it expanded its services to become a medical center in June of 2021. Since then, it has seen a 104 percent growth.

"We've been crazy busy," said Carter.

Open three days each week, the center has four staff members and many volunteers who work with women in crisis pregnancy situations. It is funded totally by donations from individuals and churches throughout the area.

Because of its rural location, the center is hoping to add a mobile medical unit to reach women who have no means of traveling to Demopolis.

