



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

# Rotary Review

*The Official Newsletter of District 6880*

## February 2024

FEBRUARY IS



www.rotary.org

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Important Dates.....	2
Mid Year Conference	
Memories.....	3
Club News.....	5

Happy Mardi Gras



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



The RI Theme for February is **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention**. I ask you to join me in a prayer for peace to come soon especially in ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, peace in our communities, in our homes, and in our hearts. The coming months will challenge us to mindfully employ our **Four Way Test**, starting especially with the first test.

Rotary International, through the Rotary Foundation, offers a program that promotes Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention through its **Peace Fellowship Awards**. It's been a long time since our district has seen even an application for this educational and training initiative that develops leaders in governments, NGOs, education and research institutions, peacekeeping, and law enforcement agencies. Please pause to take a deliberate look within your communities for young leaders who might be interested in seeking substantial support for the Rotary Peace Fellowship Master's degree program or Professional Development Certificate program. For more information visit the RI website <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>.

**We are just past the halfway mark of our Rotary Year.** It's a good time to celebrate the many accomplishments that Rotarians and clubs in our district have already achieved to improve the quality of lives of others through our Service Above Self actions. We saw in our Mid-Year Conference evidence of how many clubs are Telling the Story about the actions they are taking in Rotary Areas of Focus to have a positive impact in the lives of those in need. But there is always more we can do if we have the mind to do so.

Now is the time for club leaders and members alike to look at club goals in Rotary Club Central to assess what we have accomplished and what we still have an opportunity to accomplish in the coming months. Where we are missing stated goals, it's not too late, right now, to make them. As Yogi Berra observed, "If you don't know where you are going, you might end up someplace else."

**Let's, together, make a determined effort to finish strong**, demonstrating to ourselves and to those around us, the impact a Rotary club can make in our communities and across borders. Two action areas need our attention and diligence if, indeed, we do want to finish strong in service to others.

**Membership Engagement and Growth** is probably the most critical. Without members, sufficient in number, and sufficiently engaged in action, a club cannot become as great a force for good as it can be. We all benefit from club cultures that are full of energy and ideas to demonstrate to our members we are what we say we are.

**Continued support of the Rotary Foundation**, especially in contributions to the Annual Fund, is essential if we are going to have the capacity to turn dreams and ideas into reality. Sweat equity is very important. Financial capacity is both a catalyst and multiplier, that when joined with our personal actions makes dreams and goals come true. As Winston Churchill noted, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

--DG Earl

# *Rotary International District 6880*

*2023-2024*

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

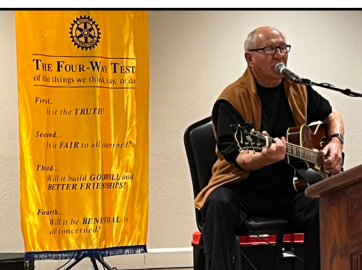
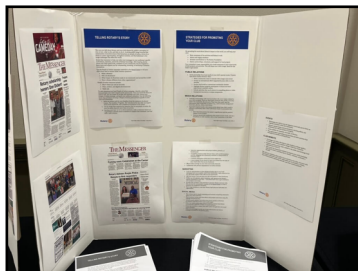
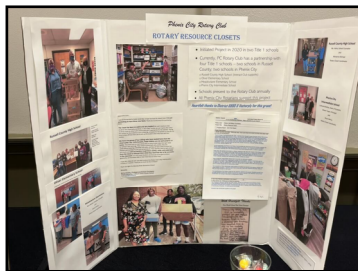
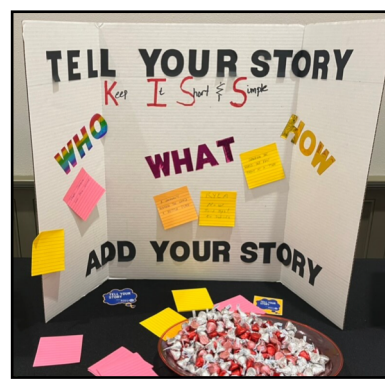
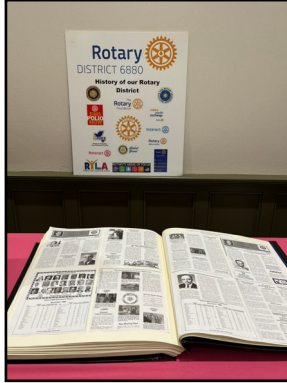
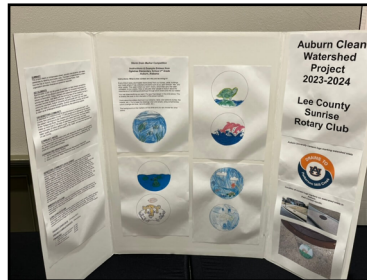
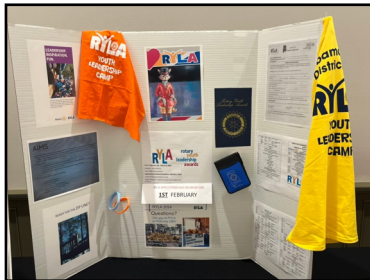


# District 6880 Mid Year Conference

You might be surprised at how many times I've heard, "I wish I knew what other clubs were doing about..." Your Midyear Conference will allow you to share and learn what our clubs and committees are doing in Service Above Self. We are Rotarians of Action, and we need to pull those many impactful actions we're taking from beneath the proverbial bushel basket.

The theme for your District 6880 2024 Midyear Conference is *Telling the Story*. One feature of the conference program will be a **Club or District Committee Storyboard Showcase** in the break area available throughout the conference. The content of your storyboard should include the What, How, and Impact of your club or committee 'story,' along with any other information that will help attendees understand the value of your story and how you shared its impact within your club or within your community.

Examples of stories we hope every club or district committee in attendance will share could include Community Service Projects, Fund-raising Projects, and District Committee Focus and Impact.





# District 6880 Awards for 2022-2023



MONTGOMERY  
SUNRISE



MONTGOMERY  
CAPITAL



DOTHAN



ENTERPRISE



FAIRHOPE



FAIRHOPE  
SUNSET



LEE COUNTY  
SUNRISE



TROY

Clubs who received their Rotary International End Polio Now Certificates of Appreciation.



MOBILE



MONTGOMERY



TROY



MOBILE WEST



MOBILE  
SUNSET



GULF SHORES  
ORANGE BEACH



FOLEY



FAIRHOPE  
SUNSET



ENTERPRISE



CHILTON COUNTY



DOTHAN



CENTRAL  
BALDWIN  
SUNSET



FAIRHOPE



LEE COUNTY  
SUNRISE



MONTGOMERY  
SUNRISE

The Clubs above are Banner Clubs.

2024 started with a lecture about a sport that is played by many Rotarians and where every player, even Pros, are receptive at all times to advice on how to improve their game.

Rea Schuessler, Director of Golf Instruction at the Country Club of Mobile offers help in that respect, so Rotary Sunrise's members listened carefully what kind of advice Rea would provide... Rea, is one of the most highly sought-after golf instructors along the Gulf Coast. His philosophy focuses on keeping the game fun while improving time tested fundamentals first and then addressing swing shape and dynamics if needed. Schuessler has been named PGA Gulf Coast Chapter Teacher of the Year and PGA Dixie Section Player of the Year.

Rea is also a licensed AimPoint Express instructor.

# Mobile Sunrise Rotary



Kristen Roberts, CFO of the University of South Alabama gave an insight of financial operations of the university, that she oversees and that includes USA Health. Kristen is a graduate of the University of Alabama where she graduated cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting and magna cum laude with a Masters of Accountancy. With almost twenty years of accounting experience, Kristen began her career in public accounting working for Deloitte and JamisonMoneyFarmer. After her time in public accounting, she worked as the Director of Fiscal Affairs



at the University of Alabama before joining the team at the University of in 2015. Kristen is a 2018 graduate of Leadership South and a 2023 recipient of Mobile Bay Monthly's 40 Under 40. Kristen is a Certified Public Accountant in the state of Alabama. Kristen introduced Hilary Seay, who is a board-certified primary care pediatric nurse practitioner. She graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2007. After graduating she moved to Mobile and began her professional career at USA Health Children's and Women's Hospital in pediatric intensive care and also served as a member of the critical care transport team. In 2012 she graduated from UAB with a master's degree in nursing as a primary care pediatric nurse practitioner. She spent 4.5 years in general pediatric practice and has also worked for the University of Mobile College of Nursing serving as undergraduate pediatric course coordinator and provided pediatric course development in their Family Nurse Practitioner Program. Hilary has been working with FocusMD since 2021 treating pediatric ADHD and its comorbidities.

Hilary is currently involved in launching 'Once Upon A Room Mobile' to promote happiness and healing in hospitalized pediatric patients in our community and along the Gulf Coast.



**OUR Beneficiaries**  
In addition to hospitalized pediatric patients, our efforts directly benefit their family members and health care professionals. Our room transformations bring hope and smiles to the families and hospital staff who experience stress over long periods.

Our Mission: To enrich the lives of hospitalized infants, children, and teens who are fighting serious illness and long-term acute trauma.



**Actions**  
Promoting happiness and healing in pediatric patients through personalized hospital room makeovers



The Mobile Chapter of 'Once Upon A Room' is launching in February of 2024. A small group of local volunteers will begin transforming cold and sterile hospital rooms into personalized, fun and cozy spaces. The picture shows from right to left: Kristen Rogers and Hilary Seay as well as Rotarians Andy Falls and Dr. Randy Koffler.





Jeff Keenum from United Bank (UBA) talked about New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) and how they were used to provide financing for the Alabama School of Math and Science, and Barton Academy. Mr. Keenum is the Vice President and NMTC Lending Coordinator at UBA. Bringing over 10 years of banking experience including loan underwriting, new business development, and asset management. Mr. Keenum plays an integral role in the NMTC program for UBA. He received his B.S. in Finance and Economics from Spring Hill College where he played baseball and is currently enrolled in the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State



## Montgomery Capital Rotary

On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, the **Montgomery Capital Rotary Club** held its annual fundraising event. The "Hearts for Children Gala" raised money for two charities. One of them is "Lunches for Learning," or L4L.

L4L exists to feed elementary school children in Honduras. The program works by enticing children to attend school and receive a nutritious meal. The significance of this program cannot be overstated, given the extreme poverty in rural Honduras. Providing food enables these children to become literate and addresses their

physical needs due to malnutrition.

This charity is considered a "Legacy Charity" for the Club. Why is that so?

The concept was the result of a visit to Honduras by the late Ron Hicks, a member of the Club. Ron tells of his visit in a YouTube Video, which should interest Rotarians. It's not long, less than six minutes. You can view it by going to the webs[www.lunchesforlearning.org](http://www.lunchesforlearning.org)ite. Go to the **Gallery** and scroll down to **"Please subscribe to us on YouTube."** When you click on that link, the first video is Ron Hicks recalling how L4L came about.

To be brief, he encountered an impoverished young girl on a solo motorcycle trip through Mexico to Costa Rica. His response to this girl's plight was almost immediate, and L4L was born. Today, L4L has support far beyond what Ron could have expected years ago. Periodically, Club members travel to Honduras to visit the school the Club supports. These trips reinforce commitment to the program and the families that benefit.

While our neighbors' needs are ever-present, we should also consider how we can help those with virtually no support from the government or charities in the third world. That's what L4L is about.



Ken Robinson and Frank Harkins represented the Rotary Club of Mobile at the “Mid-Year Rotary District Conference “ held at Troy University January 19-20, 2024.

# Mobile Rotary

Mary Van Brunt, the first female President of SpringHill College, spoke to the Rotary Club of Mobile. Pictured are Club President Frank Harkins and President Mary Van Brunt.



Mobile was well represented at the mid-year district conference.

Pictured:

- Frank Harkins -Mobile Rotary Club
- Jim Towle- North Mobile Club
- Ken Robinson- Mobile Rotary Club
- Paulette Doggett- Sunset Mobile Club
- Suzanne Russell- Mobile West Club
- Lane Elmore- Mobile West Club

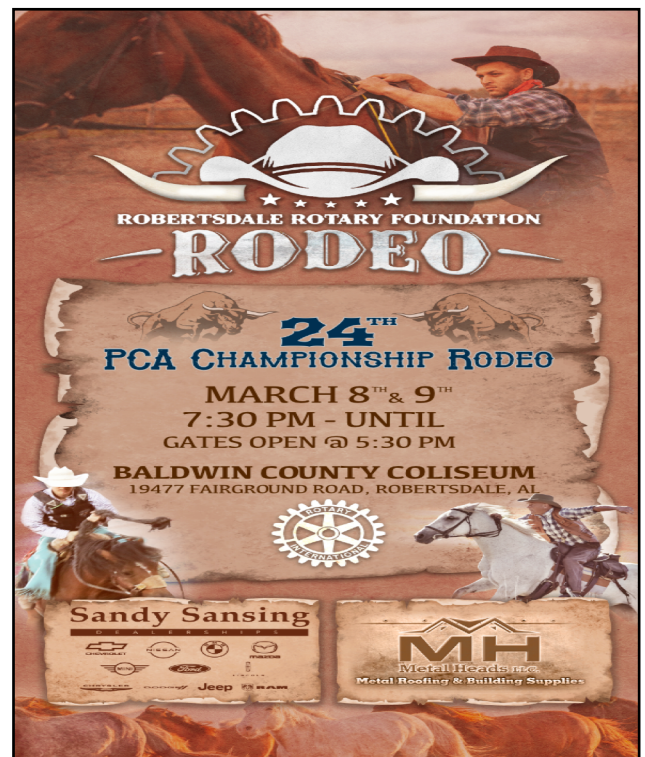
# Robertsdale Rotary



The Little Tree Project – Allana Chris came to speak with us about Human Trafficking.



Jonathan Byrd was inducted into our club. How cool is it that your father, Doug Byrd, is your sponsor and has the honor of presenting you with the Rotary pin? Welcome Jonathan!!!







Jackson Area Rotary Club passed out Book Bags to area students. The book bags were purchased through a Grant the club received.

## Jackson Area Rotary



Thank you to the Ozark Black History Committee for speaking to our group and updating us on what the future holds for our area. Pictured L to R are Rotary President Jessica Moore, Sheila McLeod & Dr. Shaletta Perry of the OBHC, and Rotarian Susan Owens.

## Ozark Rotary

Thank you to Mayor Mark Blankenship for your update on the State of the City! We are very proud of your staff's accomplishments and what it has done for the growth of Ozark. Pictured L to R are Rotary President Jessica Moore, Mayor Blankenship and Rotarian Larry Pittman.



Thank you to the Dale County Performing Arts Council for giving our group a preview of the upcoming play 'Singing in the Rain' to be performed this Feb 6-10 at the Flowers center.



Picture L to R are Rotarian President Jessica Moore, Margie Benson & DCPAC President Selina Taylor.

## Dothan Tuesday Rotary



Dothan Tuesday Rotary Club held their inaugural year of Fundraiser Football, a simplified version of fantasy football that raises funds for a number of great causes. All total, the Dothan Tuesday Rotary Club raised \$5,238.40 to benefit Camp ASCCA, the Rotary Foundation, and local charitable organizations. The winner of the 2024 Fundraiser Football trophy is Joe Donofro (center), pictured with Club District Events Coordinator Chris Warren (left) and Club President Vimal Patel (right).

Our club gave the Veterans Home a \$500 donation to assist with purchases of food and entertainment for the residents.

Last year, Bay Minette Rotary

- Held an Easter Egg Hunt For Rotary Village Retirement Home
- Received a grant to update Rotary Village to make it a cleaner and safer place.

*Bay Minette Rotary*



Montgomery Sunrise Rotary donated over 50 blankets with mats to the Homeless Center during the coldest days of the year.



Danny Weston, guest speaker, January 12. Danny shared the Do's, Don'ts, and Failures of Generative Artificial Intelligence.



*Montgomery Sunrise Rotary*

Pastor Ken Austin, guest speaker, January 19. Pastor Austin is involved in numerous service organizations in Montgomery that provide for those in need.



Judge Vanzetta McPherson, guest speaker, January 5. Judge McPherson shared about the educational impact of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.





Congratulations to these seven members of the Dothan Rotary Club. President Josh Chapman presented them each with a Paul Harris Plus Award on Monday, January 22, 2024. Left to right they are Bo Thagard +2; J Michael Maddox +4; George Flowers +8; Les Pinckard +4; Robert C Rudder +6; Robert Ferguson +2; and Joseph Johnson +3. This is an outstanding group of Rotarians who live by our motto, Service Above Self.



Steve Donner, Dothan FC Soccer & USL Soccer, was our speaker on Monday, January 22, 2024. We learned about his sports journey and specifically his plans for professional soccer at Rip Hewes Stadium in Dothan. Pictured are Dothan Rotary Club President Josh Chapman, Steve Donner and Rotarian Joseph Johnson.

*Dothan Rotary*



Our speaker on Monday, January 8th was Ed Headon, 2023-2024 District RYLA Chair. He is pictured with President Josh Chapman and Vice President Alan Richards.



It's a great day to be a Troy Rotarian! Fellowship, friendship, and best of all SERVICE opportunities. Connecting with other District 6880 Rotarians at the Mid-year Conference.

*Troy Rotary*



Two new members were inducted in our club today, and received a very warm welcome by all. From left to right, club president Griffin McNeill, new member Linsey Bishop, new member Russell Stephens & sponsors Dick Brinker & Steve Stanfield.

How inspiring it is when Auburn University student leaders speak to our club! Hayden Harding & Cole Shankles represented the student-led group "Engineers without Borders", and described the volunteer work they do across the globe, often focusing on clean water projects. They rely on donations to help fund their trips. Their next fundraiser is a bicycling event on March 23.



*Auburn Rotary*

Although January had five Wednesdays, the Demopolis Rotary Club had only two regular meetings. The club started the year January 10 with an update from Demopolis High School athletic director and football coach **Lance Tucker**. He told of the accomplishments of all the DHS fall sports teams and preparations for the spring sports. He praised the cheerleading

## Demopolis Rotary

squad and the students who have received athletic scholarships.

At the same meeting, **Kim Townsend** received recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Instead of a meeting January 17, club members attended a press conference announcing a \$26.4 million grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropies toward the Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences (ASHS) proposed for

Demopolis. Two Rotarians, **Rob Pearson** and president **Sean Parker**, were instrumental in forming the ASHS Foundation to help raise funds for the school and determine its organization.

At the meeting January 24, Rob gave a broader outline of the ASHS, the need for it, why Demopolis is the best location for the facility, and some of the issues involved in making the school a reality.

The month closed January 31 with a Rotary at Night, celebrating the fifth Wednesday of the month. Members gathered at the Demopolis Country Club to enjoy a chili bar and fellowship.



Troy Dothan's Rotaract Club had an eventful January meeting! The meeting was led by Vice President, Sabrina Ledford. She started discussing our current community outreach plans. These include an event hosted by member Jada Talton,

which is called Entrepalooza Business & Job Fair, the club's collaboration with the Education department of TROY Dothan to help with their project entitled Love Your Neighbor, and the participation in TROY Dothan's NSLS Winter Food Bank. We then elected Taylor Jones to be the new Social Media Manager of the club. We also discussed the planning of TROY Dothan's first-ever Spring Formal, which will be hosted on April 5th. We went on to

discuss sending a TROY Dothan Rotaract member or sponsor to attend various Dothan Tuesday meetings. At the end of our meeting, member Taylor Jones gave a presentation on her platform that represents the ways to F.R.E.E. our anxiety accompanied by member Maci Cross. We all participated in this bond-building exercise where we wrote something

we were anxious about on a balloon, spoke about what it was and the ways to free it, and popped our balloons together, releasing our anxiety.



## Troy University's Dothan Campus Rotaract Club

# Rotaract

