

The District Connector

MARCH/APRIL 2025



2024-2025
District Governor



District 6200 Office:
PDG Frank Bradshaw, PhD,
District Administrator
Rotary District 6200
PO Box 54004
Lafayette, LA 70505 Phone:
337-237-0628
rotary6200@lusfiber.net
www.rotary6200.org

Rotarians,

It's April, Maternal and Child Health Month. Also, our District Conference. Let's get together and have some fun!

One of RI's seven areas of focus is maternal and child health. Maternal and Child Health refers to a package of comprehensive health care services designed to meet the needs of pregnant women before, during, and after delivery, as well as infants and preschool children from birth to five years. It includes promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health care for mothers and children, covering areas such as maternal health care and child health care. As you know Rotary has numerous programs, especially global grant programs supporting this critical need throughout the world. Even in the US we have not broken the code to fully address the needs of mothers to be. Our incidences of childbirth mortality are still too high. As advanced as we are, we still lag behind other modern countries. Worldwide 4.8 million children die between the ages of 1-4 years annually. The US is 65 th in the world for maternal death rates.

As we drive toward the district conference more information will be coming out. A great program has been put together for the members of our district, including direct words from our Rotary International President, Stephanie Urchick, through her designated representative, PDG Rene Law. We will hear from the director of the Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP), Grace Van Zyl of South Africa and our own Mike Hayes (immediate past director) and our youth exchange student from Japan and more. Our clubs are heating up their fires to provide the usual culinary delights of their respective communities at the food fest. Get signed up today and don't miss out.

Craig Walling, District Governor

Rotary International is dedicated to service, leadership, and community excellence, striving to make a meaningful impact through volunteerism, partnerships, and initiatives that enhance the lives of others. **The Rotary Club of DeRidder** proudly aligned with the Rotary Foundation, Rotary District in Southwest Louisiana, Mexico, and the Heart2Heart organization and Beauregard Health System to secure a Sonosite Point-of-Care Ultrasound System for the community. The Rotary Club of DeRidder raised the initial \$30,000 to fund a global grant and received matching funds from the Rotary Foundation and its District 6200 (Southwest Louisiana), while District 4140 (Uruapan, Mexico) and District 4170 (Mexico City, Mexico) provided additional support, bringing the first local Rotary Global Grant to completion at a total of \$60,000. This grant supports the goal of Rotary International Disease and Prevention area of focus. The Rotary Club of DeRidder is committed to meeting the needs of its community.

The Sonosite ST Point-of-Care Ultrasound System is designed to enhance procedural efficiency with advanced image clarity, ensuring clinicians can see with confidence for accurate diagnoses and procedures. Its intuitive user interface puts vital information at providers' fingertips, streamlining workflow and improving patient care. Engineered for mobility and flexibility, the Sonosite ST is built to fit seamlessly at the bedside, minimize floor space, and adapt to patient and procedural needs—bringing precision and efficiency where it matters most.

"This cutting-edge ultrasound system will provide state-of-the-art, high-resolution imaging, allowing us to make faster, more accurate diagnoses at the bedside. Its advanced technology enhances our ability to deliver precise, even lifesaving care when every second counts," said Dr. Jason Baesler, Assistant Medical Director of the Emergency Department.

Beauregard Health System CEO, Traci Thibodeaux, expressed deep gratitude, stating, "The Rotary Club of DeRidder worked tirelessly to make this purchase a reality, and we are so very grateful.

Training on the system will begin in early March, with the technology set to be implemented immediately thereafter. Dave Rupf, ER Director, emphasized its impact: "This equipment will expedite treatment and help us provide faster, more efficient care. With our designation as a STEMI receiving center, It's a game changer for our staff, patients, and community."

Margaretta Mayes, Rotary Global Grant Committee Member and District 6200 Governor Nominee, echoed the significance of this initiative: "This project is incredibly important to the Rotary Club of DeRidder and its community, our District, and our



Rotary Day of Action... Rotary Club of Lafayette-North helped Family Promise of Acadiana, a not for profit organization focused on ending and preventing family homelessness, by removing an old and rotting deck from a house.



April is Rotary's Environmental Month

As we celebrate Rotary's Environmental Month this April, let's unite in designing effective community service that protects our planet. Whether it's organizing local cleanups, promoting sustainable land use, or supporting endangered species, your efforts can make a difference. Explore ways to take action and tips for success in the Areas of Focus guide. You can also browse environment projects on the [Service Project Center](#) to get ideas. For even more inspiration and support, connect with Rotary Action Groups that work on endangered species, sustainability, and food plants. Together, we can protect the environment and create lasting change in our communities!

Recently, the **Rotary Club of Lafayette-North** partnered with Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center for a blood drive! DG Craig Walling even drove down for the event to donate and gave a wonderful talk on his time at the Pentagon. #Rotarysaveslives!



The Rotary Club of Zachary's most recent meeting was a powerful reminder of the impact of service above self. They were honored to hear from Brian Hightower and Bus Culotta as they spoke about the mission and work of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. Their passion and dedication to fighting food insecurities in our region is inspiring and humbling and we were reminded that we all have a role to play in the fight against hunger.

Feeding thousands of families, the Food Bank continues to be a vital resource for so many. In 2024, the Food Bank distributed 12.8 million meals and 16.6 million pounds of food. But the Food Bank's impact stretches far beyond providing meals. They're providing hope and dignity, and building stronger communities.

Pic L-T. Brian Hightower, GBR Food Bank, Carl Herrick, Rotarian, Tamara Dayton, Rotarian, Bus Culotta, GBR Food Bank Volunteer, and Mac Perkins, Rotarian

ROTARY CLUB OF MEDIA HELPS SCHOOL IN UGANDA

The Rotary Foundation of Media recently awarded a grant to Brain Tree School in Kampala, Uganda to replace ten year old computers for a student computer lab. The \$9063 grant was made possible by a foundation grant of \$4500 which was matched by generous contributions of the club's members.

Martha Mukasa, Head of the School, said "With an upgraded fully functioning computer lab with WIFI in place, everyone is excited to resume learning regularly. We have a total of 26 functional workstations and have also been able to create a small area with 5 workstations for the teachers so that they don't inconvenience the children's computer lab use."

In 2013 the club, in partnership with the Kampala North Rotary Club, was able to secure a Rotary International Global Grant for \$67,000 that provided a new well, toilets and showers for the dormitories, a pavilion so students could eat lunch under a roof, and the original computer lab. Rotarians Jeffry Cadorette and Larry Smoose traveled to the school to dedicate those facilities and have an opportunity to meet the students and faculty. This latest grant helped to replace those old computers, many of which no longer functioned.

Mwijukye Eriot, a student at Brain Tree, expressed what many students felt when he wrote a thank you note to the club. "Since our ICT laboratory was upgraded, we have been excitingly waiting to go there and explore it. When my eyes landed on the newly upgraded ICT laboratory I felt so amazed, inspired to do the work. . .We are proudly saying thank you for fund raising for the upgrade of our ICT laboratory."

With thanks like these, the club is encouraged to continue to do good in our community and across the globe, fulfilling the Rotary motto, "Service above Self." To learn more about Rotary and the Rotary Club of Media, go to www.mediarotary.org or visit one of our club meetings every Thursday at noon at Margaret Kuo's Kitchen in Granite Run. ***Photo's: Jeffry Cadorette greets Brain Tree students during a 2013 visit.***

The new Computer Lab at Brain Tree School in Kampala, Uganda





**Rotary
Foundation
of Media**

WHISKEY

•RAFFLE•
ORDER FORM



You do not have to be a member of a Rotary Club to play and you do not have to attend to win a prize. We hope you will share this with your friends and family. The drawing will be streamed on Facebook Live, revealing the winning number AND the name of the winner.

Once chances are purchased there are no refunds. **VENMO SALES and MAILED CHECKS must be received by Friday, April 25th, 2025 at 8:00 pm. to be eligible for the drawing.**

Winners will have prizes shipped to them, or may select to receive the cash equivalent value in lieu of prize bottle(s).

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Your name _____

Your Address (no PO Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Best contact phone: _____ Your email _____

I understand that PA law does not allow payment for this FUN-raising Raffle event via a credit card.

Rotarian who contacted you: _____

By completing this form or using the Venmo Code you agree that you are at least 21 years old and agree to the terms of the raffle

CHANCES:
\$50 each or
3 for \$125

ONLY 500 CHANCES AVAILABLE – GET YOURS NOW!

All chances purchased will be assigned a unique number, that will be emailed to participants in advance.

ALL CHANCES purchased are AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED for the GRAND PRIZE

Pappy Van Winkle's 15 Year Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey (Valued up to \$3,000 - Cash equivalent \$1,000)

ALL CHANCES purchased are automatically entered for the Grand Prize.

ALL CHANCES ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PRIZES:

1st PRIZE – Laphroaig 18-Year Scotch - (Valued up to \$700 / Cash Equivalent \$400)

2nd PRIZE – Old Carter Rye - barrel strength - (Valued up to \$350 / Cash Equivalent \$200)

3rd PRIZE – Mortlach Game of Thrones 15-Year Scotch – (Valued up to \$200 / Cash Equivalent \$150)

4th PRIZE – Blanton's Single Barrel Bourbon – (Valued up to \$200 / Cash Equivalent \$100)

5th PRIZE – Springbank 9-Year Single Malt Scotch – (Valued up to \$150 / Cash Equivalent \$100)

Purchase Event Dinner

Event Dinner Only \$60
(Cash, Check or Credit)

Call 610-891-8880

OR Mail check payable to
Rotary Club of Media
PO Box 522
Media, PA 19063

Purchase chances by mail

Please email me _____ chances.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

(Payable to "Rotary Foundation of Media")

Please note "WHISKEY RAFFLE" on the check.

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Rotary Foundation of Media
P.O. Box 2028
Media, PA 19063

mediarotaryfoundation@gmail.com



Scan this to buy chances

Rotary Foundation of Media
@mediarotaryfound

venmo

\$50 each or
3 for \$125



Include name, phone and email
in Venmo "Comments" block
after Scanning this code to pay



Running is a family affair for The Lewis', Markel, Krystal, Mia and MJ pictured with the Easter Bunny and Rotarian Tamara Dayton



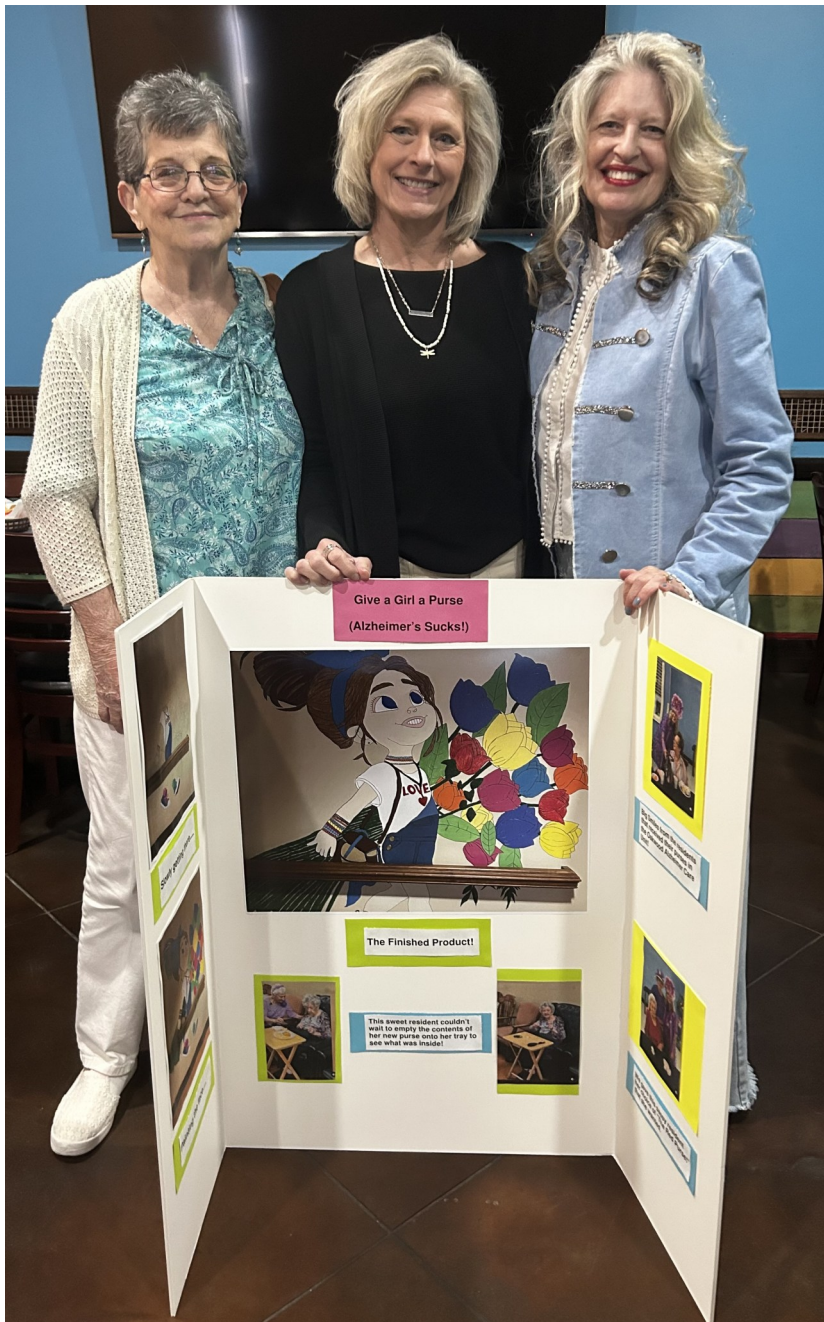
Congratulations Robbie Tanner, First Place 5K Rotary Club of Zachary Bunny Hop Race 20:19.5



Rotarians Tamara Dayton, Frances Neziyanya, and Charlene Smith



2025 Zachary Rotary Bunny Hop 1 mile First Place Winner- Shane Freeman 7:45.6 time! Congratulations



Zachary Rotary was pleased to host Charlene Bolton of Charlee's Angels at a recent weekly meeting. Charlee is an advocate and leader in the Zachary community dedicated to bringing joy and smiles to senior living communities.

Charlee shared her most recent campaign, Give a Girl a Purse, and is changing lives one purse at a time. This heartfelt initiative provides purses filled with essentials like chapstick, pictures, kleenex, to Alzheimer's patients. These thoughtfully packed purses offer more than just necessities; they provide a sense of familiarity with the most important accessory in a woman's life.

If you'd like to support this meaningful cause, consider donating new or gently used purses, essentials, or uplifting messages to be included.

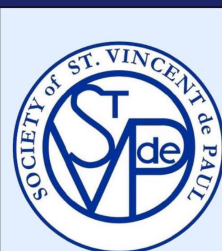
Charlee's work makes a meaningful impact on those living in senior living communities and their loved ones. Every purse tells a story - let yours be one of kindness and empowerment.

Pic L - R Francis Normand, friend of Charlee's, Lisa Rioux, Rotarian, and Charlene Bolton of Charlee's Angels

Saturday mornings are for Service! Great group worked at St. Vincent de Paul packing bags of hope. 1100 bags were stuffed!



**Bags of Hope
March 1, 2025**



Rotary
Club of Baton Rouge





PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Rotary



Club of Baton Rouge

PEACE POLE DEDICATION

March 10, 2025

The Rotary Club of Baton Rouge dedicated a peace pole on March 10, 2025 on the campus of Episcopal School of Baton Rouge in their memorial garden. The pole is a symbol of peace and serves as a visible example of peace building in our community. On this pole is the message May Peace Prevail On Earth, in English, French, Spanish and American Sign Language. The Rotary Club of Baton Rouge has been a part of the Baton Rouge community since 1918 and consists of nearly 500 business and community leaders, making it the 4th largest club in the United States and 6th largest in the world among 46,000 member clubs worldwide.

Que la paz prevalezca en la tierra
May Peace Prevail On Earth®



Rotary
Club of Baton Rouge



Rotary
Club of Baton Rouge



Rotary Club of Baton Rouge PEACE POLE DEDICATION

March 10, 2025



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



May Peace Prevail On Earth®



Rotary
Club of Baton Rouge

Rotary
Club of Baton Rouge



EPISCOPAL
SCHOOL OF BATON ROUGE



2025 DISTRICT 6200 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Thursday, April 24, 2025	5:00pm	Past District Governor's Crawfish Boil (invitation only)
Friday, April 25, 2025	7:30am-5:00pm	Peace Pole Dedication, Conference Sessions and Speakers
Friday, April 25, 2025	6:00pm-8:00pm	Food Fest at PACE Center
Saturday, April 26, 2025	8:00am-11:00am	Business Session and Celebration of Life

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

Price LeBlanc PACE Center
2824 St. Anthony Avenue
Gonzales, LA 70737

REGISTER BY USING QR CODE OR COMPLETE FORM & MAIL CHECK TO:

Make check payable to: Rotary District 6200 Conference
Attn: Tracy Browning, Conference Chair
1644 E. John Alan Street
Gonzales, LA 70737

USE QR CODE TO REGISTER:



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAYMENT INFORMATION

Full Conference Registration - \$125 per person (Rotarian & Non-Rotarian)
Registration includes: all sessions, breakfast and lunch on Friday, breakfast on Saturday and Food Fest on Friday night
Please use the QR code to register and pay OR complete form below and make checks payable to: **Rotary District 6200 Conference**

REGISTRATION FORM (Only use this form if you do NOT register using the QR code to link to DACdb)

☐ **Rotarian** Registration Full Conference \$125

Rotarian's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Club Name: _____

Are you a first time attendee? ☐ yes ☐ no Do you have any dietary restrictions? ☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, please check: ☐ vegetarian ☐ vegan ☐ gluten free ☐ allergy-shellfish ☐ allergy-nuts

☐ allergy-other: _____

☐ **Non-Rotarian** (Spouse/Partner/Guest) Registration Full Conference \$125

Name: _____

Email: _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions? ☐ yes ☐ no

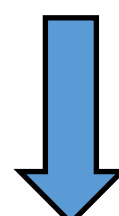
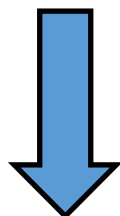
If yes, please check: ☐ vegetarian ☐ vegan ☐ gluten free ☐ allergy-shellfish ☐ allergy-nuts

☐ allergy-other: _____

FOOD FEST (FRIDAY NIGHT): For those not registering for the conference

____ **Non-Rotarian** (Spouse/Partner/Guest) ONLY Attending Food Fest Friday Night - \$25

____ How many tickets at \$25 each would you like to purchase?





2025 DISTRICT 6200 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

HOTEL OPTIONS: Please make your hotel reservation directly using the links below

Clarion Inn (Cutoff Date 4/9/25)

1500 LA Hwy 30 W

Gonzales, LA 70737

225.285.4614

Reservation Link: **\$119 per night**

[Rotary 2025 Conference Clarion](#)

Springhill Suites by Marriott (Cutoff Date 4/10/25)

2801 S. Cabela's Parkway

Gonzales, LA 70737

225.621.3000

Reservation Link: **\$119 per night**

[Rotary District Conference 2025 Springhill](#)

Questions? Please email Tracy Browning at 2025district6200conference@gmail.com

The Rotary Club of Baton Rouge recognized the following Rotarians on March 5, 2025



MULTIPLE PAUL HARRIS



SUSAN LEAKE
PHF +4 (FOUR SAPPHIRE)



MARK DISPENZA
PHF +6 (ONE RUBY)



CAROL PATIN
PHF +1 (ONE SAPPHIRE)



PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



SCOT GUIDRY
PHF



SCOTT JOHNSON
PHF



CINDY SEGHERS
PHF

Zachary Rotary recently had the pleasure of hosting the Director of the Louisiana Art & Science Museum. Karen M. Soniat, Executive Director, shared fascinating insights about the museum's exhibits, educational programs, and its mission to inspire curiosity through art and science.

From showcasing Louisiana's rich cultural heritage to engaging hands-on experiences for visitors of all ages, the museum plays a vital role in our community.

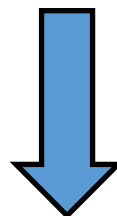
Housed in a historic railroad depot on the banks of the Mississippi River, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum offers educational entertainment for visitors of all ages. The art galleries showcase changing fine art exhibitions and selections from the permanent collection. In the interactive art and science galleries designed just for children, creative and enlightening fun comes in many forms. The Ancient Egypt Gallery houses ancient artifacts and a Ptolemaic-era mummy that rests in a re-created rock-cut tomb. The Irene W. Pennington Planetarium features sky shows, large-format films, visual music shows, and galleries devoted to space science. In the Museum Store visitors enjoy shopping for unique handcrafted merchandise, books, toys, and a large selection of objects related to the Museum's exhibits.



Thank you to Karen Soniat, Director, for joining us and giving us a deeper look at this incredible institution! ***Pic L-R. Rotarian Tamara Dayton, Executive Director LASM Karen Soniat, and Rotarian Lisa Rioux.***

The Sunrise Rotary Club of Houma would like to share a new service project they developed this year. After much discussion their club decided to create a Fresh 4U Closet Project. This service project is dedicated to addressing the hygiene needs for youths throughout Terrebonne Parish schools. Many children in their local schools do not have the resources or means to obtain much needed items essential to their care. Their mission for this project is to provide ongoing sustained access to essential hygiene products for underprivileged children in Terrebonne Parish. The supplies for the closet will be distributed throughout the year and replenished as needed to maintain ongoing care. They feel that this project will have a profound impact on the health, wellbeing and self-esteem for the children they serve. The school counselors have become the resource to identify and distribute to those children directly.

"You have made the Fresh 4U closet a thing of magic. I wish you could see the student's faces when I can offer them the things that they need. They are amazed at what they are offered. The supplies have been a blessing and we appreciate your dedication, caring and efforts toward helping our students with those items that most take for granted." Calwell Middle School Melanie S. school Counselor



Fresh 4U School Closet Project

SUNRISE
ROTARY CLUB OF HOUMA

