

# ROTOVIEWS

Chartered 1913 – Club 2046 – District 5910

Issue 005 November 1, 2025

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## History of the Club

On Tuesday evening, June 3rd, 1913, the Rotary Club of Palestine held its first meeting. Some 20 members were present. The group, which had been called together by Harry I Meyers, met at the Interstate dining room in the International Hotel. Myers, a Palestine native, had come back home in 1912 from San Antonio to join members of his family at the Grand Leader Department store. Perhaps he had heard of the Rotary Club organized in 1912 in San Antonio.

Club officers were elected with twenty-nine-year-old Myers as club president. The newspaper article about that meeting states that "the object of the Rotary Club is to promote social relations between business men."

At the time of its organization, the Palestine Club was the 75th Rotary Club, world-wide, and the 8th club in Texas.

## President Greg



November is Rotary Foundation Month — a time to reflect on the heart of Rotary's mission: "Doing good in the world."

The Rotary Foundation transforms our gifts into service projects that change lives close to home and across the globe.

Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians like you, The Rotary Foundation funds life-changing work — from providing clean water and literacy programs to advancing peace and eradicating polio. Each dollar we give, whether to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or local grants, helps build hope and opportunity for others.

This month, I invite each of you to renew your commitment to the Foundation. Consider becoming a Sustaining Member or Paul Harris Fellow, or simply share the story of the Foundation's impact with someone new. Together, we can continue to make a difference that will outlast us.

Let's celebrate Foundation Month by giving, learning, and serving — honoring the spirit of Rotary that unites us all in service above self.

*Greg*

## ROTARIANS AT WORK

Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION

I'M PROUD  
TO BE PART  
OF ROTARY

### November 5th

Invocation - Mike Gorby  
Song - Timothy Triplett  
Pledges - Richard Rutledge  
Four Way Test - Bill Kinla  
Caterer - Mario's

### November 12th

Invocation - Shweta Patel  
Song - Mike Gorby  
Pledges - Amelia Davis  
Four Way Test - Todd Sanders  
Caterer - Pita Hut

### November 19th

Invocation - Hugh Summers  
Song - Jerry Newton  
Pledges - Angela Howell-Fields  
Four Way Test - Chris Keller  
Clean Up - Lynn Willhite  
Caterer - Shep's

### November 26th

**NO MEETING**

## RI President Message

### Francesco Arezzo

Rotary Club Ragusa Italy



This November, as we celebrate **The Rotary Foundation**, I invite you to consider not only what we give but why we give. The Foundation is more than a fund for projects. It is the beating heart of our promise that service, rooted in trust and friendship, can create lasting change.

Our Action Plan calls us to increase our impact, and the Foundation is how we make this vision real. Since 1988, Rotary and our partners have immunized nearly 3 billion children against polio. We have committed more than \$2.6 billion to this cause, and last year alone, we directed \$146 million toward the final push for eradication. These numbers are significant, but the true impact is not in statistics — it is in the lives of children who will never again fear polio. It is in the hope restored to families and the peace built in communities once defined by disease.

But polio is only one story among many. Each year, Rotary Peace Centers train new generations of leaders who will transform conflict into dialogue and division into understanding. In 2023-24, nearly 100 new fellows began their studies, continuing a legacy of more than 1,800 peacebuilders from over 140 countries. When we invest in them, we are planting seeds of peace that will bear fruit for decades to come. The Foundation also touches lives through district and global grants, supporting projects large and small. A clean water well for a rural community, scholarships for young professionals, medical care in the wake of disaster — these are not temporary gestures, but steps toward dignity, resilience, and opportunity. This is how Rotary service becomes lasting impact. And when natural disasters strike, our Foundation allows Rotary to act quickly with disaster response grants.

Our Foundation is not about what we can do alone but what we can do together. Each contribution, no matter its size, joins with others to create a collective act of faith in humanity and in the future.

The last mile of any great journey is always the hardest. We see this in our final steps toward ending polio, in our work for peace, and in every project that seeks to lift people out of despair. Yet every time we give, we declare that our work will continue regardless of the challenge.

This November, let us give with gratitude, with joy, and with hope. Through our Foundation, we Unite for Good, and in doing so, we leave behind not only projects but a legacy of peace, trust, and Service Above Self.

District 5910

# foundation celebration

HONORING  
hugh summers  
nov 15, 2025  
houston marriott north

WITH SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
PAST RI PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE  
John Germ

Rotary   
District 5910




## JR ROTARIANS



ELKHART  
HIGH SCHOOL



**McKenzie Smith**



**Rebekah Easley**

PALESTINE  
HIGH SCHOOL



**Amilda Quincin**

**Jazmin Estrada**



WESTWOOD  
HIGH SCHOOL



**Abigail Ferretiz**

**Ariana Gonzales**



## *Birthdays & Anniverdaries*



**November 6<sup>th</sup> - Elaine Wallace**

**November 16<sup>th</sup> - Jim Cook**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> - Dollinda Toole**

**November 20<sup>th</sup> - Harold Campbell**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Terry Thorn**

**November 26<sup>th</sup> - Michael Thomason**

**Nov. 1st - Jerry & Katherin Nerwton**

**Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> John & Paula McAughan**

**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> - Chris & Allison Keller**

**Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> - Brian & Jodi Walsh**

## **Years of Service**

**Robert Bell - 2 Years**

**David Brown- 2 Years**

**Matt Winchester- 3 Years**

**Amy McGuire - 6 Years**

**Mark Harcrow - 6 Years**

**Ben Rhone - 7 Years**

**Brett Weisenburn - 12 Years**

**Leon Willhite - 21 Years**

**Jerry Newton - 41 Years**

## *Save the Date*



*Jingle, Jingle, Mark Your Calendar to Party and Mingle*

**Rotary Christmas Party**  
**Thursday - Dec. 9th**  
**Harvey Women's Club**

# ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH



November's theme for Rotary International is Rotary Foundation Month, which focuses on highlighting the work of The Rotary Foundation and encouraging donations to fund its global initiatives. The Foundation uses contributions to support projects that improve health, provide quality education, protect the environment, and alleviate poverty. Key priorities include the PolioPlus program, promoting peace, and addressing issues like hunger and illiteracy.

- Purpose: To raise awareness about The Rotary Foundation and the impact of member contributions on worldwide projects. How it works: Donations are used to fund humanitarian and educational projects through the Foundation's programs.
- Focus areas: Projects address key global issues such as:
  - Polio eradication
  - Promoting peace
  - Poverty and hunger
  - Illiteracy and lack of education
  - Disease prevention and treatment



The Rotarian  
Minute News

## The PHF (Paul Harris Fellow)



Numerous awards are given out by the Rotary Foundation, the most well-known of which being the PHF (Paul Harris Fellow, named for Paul Harris, the organization's founder).

The PHF has been created in 1957 to boost donations to the Foundation.

Clubs can assign a PHF to the person of their choice (Rotarian or not) for a \$1,000 donation to the Foundation's annual fund or an approved grant.

Each complementary donation of \$1,000 gives the title of multiple PHF.

The recipients are people who have distinguished themselves by their merits, their dedication, their success in the actions undertaken, their ethical behavior.

The presentation of a PHF is made, very officially, by the President of the Club or the Governor during a statutory meeting or any other Rotary meeting.



# CONGRATULATIONS ROTARIAN MICHAEL DAVIS

Congratulation to Rotarian Michael Davis for his appointment from Governor Greg Abbott to The Twelfth Court of Appeals in Tyler. He has become the eighteenth justice to serve on this court and the first from Anderson County.

This is a three (3) justice court presided over by Chief Justice James T. Worthen of Big Sandy, Justice Brian Hoyle of Tyler, and Justice Michael Davis of Palestine. The Court has jurisdiction of appeals from the trial courts located in a seventeen (17) county district.



## SUITS FOR SELDEN DAY!

### Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

In honor of Jack Selden, who always took pride in dressing professionally for Rotary meetings, let's celebrate his legacy by doing the same. Please join us in wearing your best professional attire for Suits for Selden Day. Let's honor Jack's Rotary spirit

*"Suits for Selden Day"*



**This will also be a special giving day for the Rotary Foundation! Let's come together to make a difference through our contributions that change lives around the world.**



# Programs

## McGINNIS FARM PROGRAM Braden and Jordan McInnis

5

Braden and Jordan McInnis are first-generation farmers from Anderson County, Texas, recognized for their agricultural success and advocacy for the farming industry. They won the Texas Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher contest in 2019 and went on to win the national American Farm Bureau Federation Achievement Award in 2020. Their operation includes growing corn, wheat, cotton, soybeans, grain sorghum, and hay, raising cattle, and offering commercial spray applicator services and timber clearing. Jordan also works as an agricultural science teacher at Elkhart High School. Their dedication and success in farming earned them top honors in both the Texas and national Young Farmer & Rancher competitions.



## LUKE LANE SADDLERLY Custom Leather Saddles

12

"Saddles by Luke" could refer to Luke Lane Saddlery, a company that builds custom and in-stock western saddles, or the song "Back in the Saddle" by country singer Luke Combs. Luke Lane Saddlery creates handmade leather saddles, while Luke Combs' song uses the phrase "back in the saddle" metaphorically to describe a comeback.



## JR ROTARIAN SPEECHES & SUITS FOR SELDEN Elkhart, Palestine & Westwood HS's

19

"Junior Rotarians" are High school seniors selected through their school's guidance office, faculty, or community involvement. invited by our Club to learn about Rotary, experience community service, and develop leadership skills and to expose them to Rotary's values of service, leadership, and fellowship.

## NO MEETING

26

Happy Turkey Day! Rotary wishes you the best time with your family and friends, as the holiday fills your home with warmth and laughter. Enjoy the feasting.



# 2026 ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP GALA



## 🌹 A Heartfelt Thank You from the Rotary Club of Palestine

Our Día de los Muertos Scholarship Gala was a beautiful success — a night filled with color, community, and compassion. We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support and positive feedback we received. Together, we celebrated life, honored those who came before us, and raised funds to help carry their legacy forward through education.

A special thank-you goes out to the incredible ladies who gave countless hours to decorating, planning, and ensuring every detail reflected the spirit of the evening:

Shweta Patel, Mary Raum, Dollinda Toole, Amelia Davis, LeeAnn Martini, and Rhonda Herrington.

Your creativity, dedication, and heart made this event truly unforgettable.

As we reflected that night:

"No matter where we're from, one truth connects us: we all long to remember, to honor, and to continue the legacy of those we love. We gather not only to remember but to carry that love forward in service. Rotary, after all, is built on the idea of turning love into action — of serving others in honor of those who once served us. Because when love is passed on through service, it never fades — it multiplies."

Thank you to everyone who helped make that vision a reality. Together, we continue to turn love into action — and service into lasting change. 🧡 **Jodi**

Thank you to our generous sponsors for making our Scholarship Gala a success. Your support helps us change lives through education and opportunity!

Advantage Self Storage

Austin Bank

Commercial Bank of Texas

Crisis Center of Anderson & Cherokee County

Jodi and Mark Davis

Judge Michael Davis & Rhonda Herrington

Dogwood Assisted Living

Fabulous Pools

Robert Johnston

Landmark Realty

Little Caesar's Pizza

Oncor

Palestine Air & Heat

Palestine Independent School District

Palestine Regional Medical Center

Premier Realty

Rutledge Auto Group

State Farm Insurance – Brett Weisenburn

Trinity Valley Community College

We Care of Palestine

# Rotary Float – 1<sup>st</sup> Place



## Congratulations!

Your creativity, teamwork, and community spirit truly shone bright? Taking First Place for your float is a wonderful recognition of your dedication and enthusiasm. Thank you for representing Rotary with such pride and joy!

A BIG Thank you to Shweta Patel and her team for a job well done!

## ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Exciting news for our RYLA Program! This year, all high school juniors applying to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Awards will take part in an interview process. This step will help us get to know the candidates better and ensure we select those most ready to grow as leaders.



**If you would like to join us for RYLA.  
PLEASE contact Cindy Piersol!  
Dates: January 9, 10, 11, 2026**



# Welcome New Members



**Shannon Lowry**

**Director  
Crisis Center of Anderson &  
Cherokee County**

**Sarah Williams**  
**Escrow Officer  
Anderson Title Company**



**Scott Gorby**

**Office Manager  
Sycamore Medical Clinic**



# THE TRUE MEANING OF THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a cherished American holiday that holds a special place in the hearts of millions. It is a time when families and friends come together to share a bountiful meal, watch parades, and express gratitude for the blessings in their lives. Beyond the festivities, Thanksgiving has a deep-rooted historical and cultural significance that often gets overshadowed by the turkey and pumpkin pie.



**The Historical Roots** – We can trace Thanksgiving's origins back to 1621 when the Pilgrims, a group of English Separatists, and the Wampanoag Native Americans came together for a three-day feast. We often regard this as the “First Thanksgiving.” However, the holiday we celebrate today did not emerge until centuries later. Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863 during the Civil War. He called for a day of “Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” This historical context is crucial in understanding that Thanksgiving was meant to be a time of unity, reflection, and gratitude during one of the most challenging periods in American history.

**Gratitude as a Way of Life** – Thanksgiving isn't just a day; it's a practice of gratitude. In a world that often emphasizes what we lack rather than what we have, Thanksgiving encourages us to count our blessings. It reminds us to appreciate the necessities, such as food, shelter, and companionship, which we often take for granted. By consciously practicing gratitude on Thanksgiving, we can cultivate a positive outlook on life and appreciate the small joys surrounding us daily.

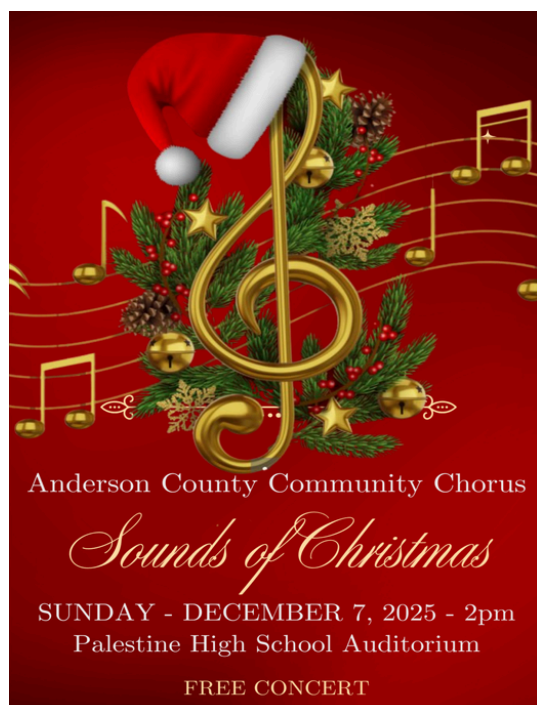
## The Act of Giving Back

Thanksgiving is also a time for giving back to the community and those less fortunate. Many people volunteer at local food banks, shelters, and charities during the holiday season. This spirit of generosity aligns with the historical notion of helping others in need, as exemplified by the Native Americans who assisted the Pilgrims during their hardship. Thus, Thanksgiving serves as a reminder that sharing our blessings and showing compassion to those in need are essential aspects of the American spirit.

**Cultural Diversity** – The United States is a melting pot of cultures and traditions, and Thanksgiving reflects this beautifully. Families across the country incorporate their cultural elements into the holiday, whether they add a unique dish to the Thanksgiving feast or blend cultural customs with the traditional Thanksgiving meal. This diversity is a testament to American society's inclusive and welcoming nature, where people from various backgrounds come together to celebrate and give thanks.

In conclusion, the American Thanksgiving holiday has a rich and multifaceted meaning extending far beyond the dinner table. It is a time to honor history, express gratitude, strengthen familial bonds, and give back to the community. Thanksgiving reminds us of the values that unite us as a nation—unity, gratitude, and compassion. It is a day to appreciate the diversity of our culture and reflect on the lessons of our past. So, as we gather with our loved ones and savor the traditional Thanksgiving meal, let us also remember the profound meaning behind this beloved holiday and carry its spirit of gratitude and togetherness throughout the year.

# Supporting Community Events





# MEMBERSHIP

**Bailey, Thomas** \* PH 1962 (Ann Lynn) ..... Funeral Home Director  
**Bedre, Megan** 2024 (Barry) ..... Teacher Sponsor  
**Brown, David** 2023 (Linda) ..... Commercial Landscaping  
**Byrd, Jordan** PH 2020 (Stevie) ..... Christian Minister  
**Campbell, Harold** PH PS 2005 (Deb) ..... Insurance  
**Chambers, Ryan** 2025 (Amanda) ..... Attorney  
**Cook, Jim** 2025 ..... Dentist  
**Crutcher, Kasey** 2020 (Jessica) ..... Multi-Line Insurance  
**Davis, Amelia** 2024 (Charles) ..... Marketing  
**Davis, Dan** \* PH 1986 (Ruth) ..... Real Estate Agency  
**Dais, Jodi** PH PS (Mark) ..... Realtor  
**Davis, Mark** \* PH PS (Jodi) ..... Finance: Banking  
**Davis, Michael** \* PH 2009 (Sandy) ..... Law: Civil  
**Doran Jeff** PH PS 2018 (Cheryl) ..... Corporate Law  
**Duncan, Nicole** 2025 (George) ..... TVCC Director  
**Flores, Rudy** PH 2018 (Becky) ..... Law Enforcement  
**Fontaine, Jerry** PH 2007 ..... Civil Engineering  
**Gorby, Mike** \* PH PS MD 1994 (Carolyn) ..... Medicine: Internal  
**Gorby, Scott** 2025 ..... Medical Office Manager  
**Ham, Cassie** 2024 (Tim) ..... Tourism/Marketing  
**Harcrow, Mark** 2019 (Landry) ..... Law Enforcement: Police  
**Henderson, Mark** PH PS 1996 (Sheila) ..... Electric Motor Repair  
**Herrington, Rhonda** \* PH PS MD 1998 ..... Education: Cur. Director  
**Hollie, Lillian** 2022 (Marvin) ..... Bookkeeper  
**Howell-Fields, Angela** PH 2011 (?) ..... Wholesale Beverage  
**Johnson, Phil** 2021 (Mona) ..... Copy and Print Services  
**Johnson, Katie** 2024 (Stewart Buckner) ..... Teacher Sponsor  
**Johnston, Robert** PH 2009 (Brenda) ..... Agriculture: Ranching  
**Keller, Chris** PH 2021 (Allison) ..... Restaurateur  
**Kennedy, Tim** 2024 (Shawn) ..... Teacher Sponsor  
**Kimla, Bill** 2023 PH (Josette) ..... Chemical Distribution Manager  
**Kozik, Tim** PH 2006 (Leah) ..... Home for Aged Mgmt.  
**Lamb, John** PH 2023 (Kathy) ..... Venue Owner  
**LaRue, Rusty** \* PH 1989 (Ellen) ..... Casualty Insurance  
**Lawson, Brittany** 2025 ..... Insurance Agent  
**Lindsey, Greg** PH PS 2013 ..... Auto Dealership  
**Link, Edwin** PH 2013 (Kerran) ..... Commercial Insurance  
**Loveless, Larissa** 2010 (Lee) ..... Public Relations  
**Lowry, Shannon** 2025 ..... Crisis Center Director  
**Magdziak, Schyler** PH 2014 (Cody) ..... Bank Loan Officer  
**Marshall, Jason** PH 2011 (Shanna) ..... Education: Administration  
**Martine, LeeAnn** PH 2010 (Paul) ..... Heating and Air Conditioning  
**McAughan, John** PH 2012 (Paula) ..... Project Engineer: Retired

**McBroom, Cliff** 2023 ..... Pest Control  
**McGuire, Amy** PH 2019 (John) ..... Teacher Sponsor  
**McKee, Randy** PH 2019 (Krissy) ..... IT Consultant  
**Newton, Jerry** \* PH MD 1984 (Kathrine) ..... Medicine: Urology  
**Parsons, Jim** PH 1962 (Karen) ..... Civil Trial Law  
**Patel, Shweta** 2023 (Neil) ..... Restaurateur  
**Piersol Cindy** \* PH 2019 (John) ..... YMCA Director  
**Polster, Celia** 2019 (Wayne) ..... Business Consultant  
**Pulver, Josh** PH 2019 (Chris Staffell) ..... Lakeview Center CEO  
**Raum, Mary** \* PH 2017 (Shane) ..... Tourism Marketing  
**Ray, Jordan** 2023 (Lindsey) ..... Financial Advisor  
**Rhone, Benjamin** PH 1986 (Ruth) ..... Funeral Home Director  
**Rutledge, Becky** PH (Richard) ..... Reg. Dir. Responsive Education  
**Rutledge, Richard** \* PH (Becky) ..... Auto Sales  
**Sanders, Todd** 2025 (Carmel) ..... Tech Consultant  
**Smalley Alyson** 2022 (Kevin) ..... Insurance Sales  
**Stanford, Wade** PH 2016 (Marla) ..... Education: Administration  
**Stewart, Robb** PH 2020 ..... Oilfield Exploration  
**Summers, Hugh** \* PH MD 1974 (Ahnise) ..... Real Estate Law  
**Tang, Mark** 2019 PH (Lisa) ..... Nursing Home Admin.  
**Thomason, Mike** PH 1994 (Judy) ..... Air Service and Repair  
**Thorn, Terry, PH** 2000 (Jesse) ..... Law: Real Estate  
**Tidrow, Kenny** PH 2017 (Tracy) ..... Financial Advisor  
**Toole, Dolinda** 2023 ..... Banking  
**Triplett, Elaine** PH 2023 (Timothy) ..... Evangelist  
**Triplett, Timothy** PH 2012 (Elaine) ..... Engineering Automaton  
**Varela, Fernando** PH 1995 (Alena) ..... Automobile: Retailing  
**Walsh, Brian** 2024 (Jodie) ..... Attorney  
**Wallace Elaine** 2024 (Phillip) ..... Nursing School Director  
**Weber, Larry** PH 2001 (Ellen) ..... Bus. Services Income Tax  
**Weisenburn, Brett** \* PH 2013 (Laura) ..... Insurance: Property  
**Willhite, Leon** \* PH MD 2004 (Lynn) ..... Govt. Planning Service  
**Willhite, Lynn** PH MD 2023 (Leon) ..... CEO-WE Care Palestine  
**Williams, Ernie** PH 2021 (Vanessa) ..... General Insurance  
**Williams, Sarah** 2025 ..... Escrow Officer  
**Winchester, Matt** 2022 (Lori) ..... Oncor Manager

## Past President \*

Paul Harris Fellow PH

Polio Plus Society PS

Major Donor MD

## 2025-2026 Club Officers

President – Greg Lindsey	President Elect – Jodi Davis	Secretary – LeeAnn Martine	Treasurer – Rhonda Herrington
Immediate Past President – Michael Gorby		Director at Large – Hugh Summers	
Membership Director – Dollinda Toole	Foundation Director – Brett Weisenburn	Service Director – Bill Kimla	
Youth Director – Mark Tang	Public Image Director – Angela Howell-Fields		
RI President – Mário César	District Governor Charles Gilliland	Asst. Governor – Sam Smith	