

Rotary Club of Arlington



Hubcap

The Official Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Arlington

July 2, 2020

In this edition: Installation of Officers, "That Was the Year That Was", and more...

President's Message

By Susie Wine McAlister



HERE WE GO! IT'S A NEW ROTARY YEAR with a new Rotary Theme, officers, and board of directors.

The Rotary International Theme for this year is "Rotary Opens Opportunities". When I first heard this, I thought sure our club has opportunities to serve, and we do. But after listening to then President-Elect Holger Knaack speak at PETS, I found that there were many other interpretations I hadn't thought of. My eyes were opened to so much more. The theme encourages Rotarians to seize the many opportunities Rotary offers them to enrich their own lives, and the communities they serve. We already do this! Look at some of the opportunities we offer with our Webb Scholarships. These students have opportunities for continuing their education which will then offer them more opportunities in their lifetime.

Rotary creates leadership opportunities, and gives members the chance to put their service ideas into action, and makes lifelong connections. Everything we do opens doors to another opportunity for someone somewhere.

Rotary isn't just a club for people to join, but rather an invitation to endless opportunities. President Knaack emphasized that Rotary creates pathways for members to improve their own lives, as well as the lives of those they help through service projects. Even though it sounds simple, "Rotary Opens Opportunities" asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help

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THIS WEEK AT ROTARY *By Zoom*

Jennifer Wichmann,
Arlington Asst. City Manager
**"Covid 19 and the
Arlington Economy"**

COMING SOON

July 9

Dr. Jim Quick

[Wellbeing in a
Pandemic](#)

ZOOM LINKS FOR OUR MEETINGS

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84278964280>

Meeting ID: 842 7896 4280

Password: 443168

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,84278964280#,,1#,443168#

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

MISS OUR OFFICER INSTALLATION?

The recording of last week's Zoom meeting can be viewed for a limited time (one week) by clicking [HERE](#). Password is: 6l@oh*33

Rotary
PEOPLE of ACTION



The Rotary Club of Arlington

PO Box 121045 Arlington, Texas 76012 – www.ArlingtonRotary.com

Founded May 29, 1923 – Charter Number 1493 – Issued June 11, 1923 – District 5790 – Club 1763

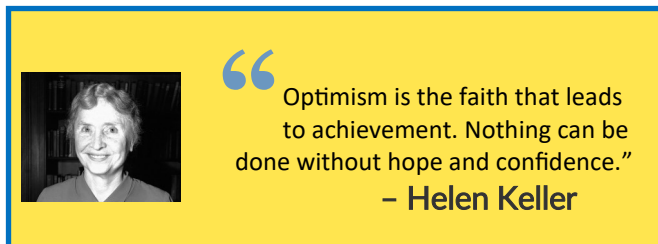
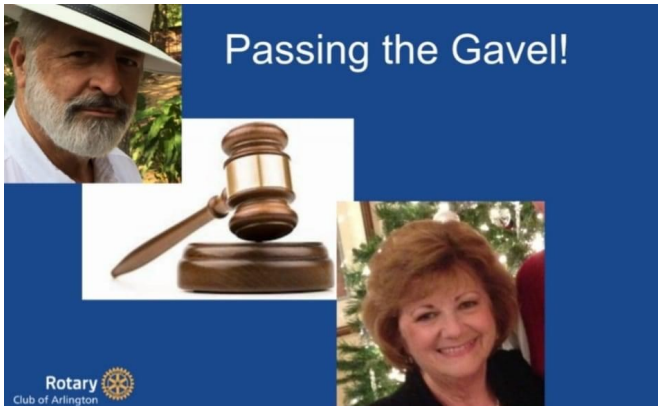
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put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need. Our doors are always open for friendship, where we can come, and serve together. And eventually, we will be able to come, and serve together, face to face.

Susie Wine McAlister,
President, 2020-21





CONGRATULATIONS!

Rotarians celebrating their club anniversary of "Service Above Self."

Belinda Gist	4 Years	June 29, 2016
Walter Virden	22 Years	June 30, 1998
Derrick Kinney	21 Years	July 1, 1999
Jason Rand	4 Years	July 1, 2016


Rotarian of the Year




Victoria Farrar-Myers



Distinguished Rotarian of the Year



Gloria Pena



ROTARY CLUB OF ARLINGTON OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & ADVISORS 2020-21	
President	Susie Wine McAlister
President Elect	Kurt Bartley
Secretary	Mia Russo
Treasurer	James McCroskey
Sergeant - at- Arms	Steve Brooks
Immediate Past President	Tom Ware
Assistant Secretary	Heather Kipker
Club Service, Social Activities	Diane Patrick
Club Service, Membership	PDG Peter Scott
Club Service, Asst. Membership	Randy Hendricks
Club Service, Public Image	April Pettitt
Community Service, Youth Service	Esteban Blanco
Community Service, Webb School	Joy Bates
Community Service, Scholarships	Tommy Thompson
Community Service	Derrick Kinney
Vocational Service	Bryan Roberts
International Service	Scott Hendricks
Rotary International Foundation	Sally Hopper
Fund Development	Dixon Holman
Advisor	Sam Scott
Advisor	Joyce Stanton

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That Was the Year That Was (2019-20)

by Dan Blumberg

IN “SEASONS OF LOVE,” THE OPENING ANTHEM for the musical “Rent,” the cast asks: how do you measure a year in the life of a woman or a man? The chorus goes on to note that there are 525,600 minutes in a year and suggests some alternatives regarding how we might measure the years of our lives: in daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee, in inches, in miles, in laughter or in strife. Others have proposed a different measure: We should measure our lives not in the number of breaths we take but in the number of experiences that take our breath away.

We’ve had quite a number of those moments this Rotary year. And what a year it’s been. This year we have lived through a presidential impeachment vote and a trial, a global pandemic, months of stay-at-home orders designed to protect us from the Coronavirus, the selection of two presidential candidates, quite a number of state primary elections, an economic downturn comparable to the Great Depression and a series of worldwide marches and protests for racial justice involving events that took place in American cities. And, as if that weren’t enough, COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions made it necessary for our Rotary club to cease its weekly in-person meetings and lunches and to opt for online meetings using Zoom, a popular online meeting platform.

The year began inauspiciously enough. Club President Tom Wade and his wife, Suzy, traveled with District Governor Peter Scott and his wife, Lynn, to Hamburg, Germany for the Rotary International Convention. They arrived in Germany only to discover that their hotel reservations were made for the day before and that their rooms were no longer available. Only after they had spent an hour or two in the hotel lounge wondering what to do did the hotel find a way to book their stay.

One way to measure time we have already agreed upon: by Rotary years, which begin each July 1 and end the following June 30. This one saw the installation of Tom Ware as Club President; Susie McAlister as Club

President-Elect; Kurt Bartley as our succeeding President-Elect; our own former Club President Peter Scott as Rotary District Governor; and a number of other Rotarians as club board and district officers.

But no, it wasn’t the usual Rotary year. Sure, we had an excellent installation ceremony and dinner at the new Arlington Boathouse off Lake Arlington. And yes, we had a lovely holiday gathering at the home of club member Mojy Haddad and his wife, Julia. We welcomed elementary school students to the first day of school at John Webb Elementary School, the Title I school we adopted several decades ago. And of course we awarded nearly a hundred scholarships to former Webb students so that they might attend college or trade school or handicapped education courses.

And yes, we had our annual Arlington Heroes Run, although its original organizer, Clete McAlister, began the process of handing off responsibility for the event to his successor, our own Heather Kipker. And yes, we had a number of wonderful social events at Theatre Arlington and elsewhere organized by our fun committee chair, Diane Patrick. And yes, of course we had a number of blood drives organized by our presiding vampire emeritus, Kay King.

But no, it wasn’t our usual Rotary year. For one thing, we lost two of our best Rotarians this year. Fred Bondurant, Jr. died after 69 years of attendance at our club meetings and after years of service to the community as club president, a member of the Arlington school board, a successful insurance agent, businessman and philanthropist. He was the last of our World War II generation of Rotarians. Dr. Tom Wightman, our Arlington Rotary Foundation Scholarship Chair, passed away just a few days ago after years of service to the club, to our Webb scholarship recipients, to the medical community and to his patients.

For the first time in many years a Rotary International President, Sushil Gupta, resigned for health reasons. He was replaced by Holger Knaack of Germany. And for the first time in many years our Rotary International Convention, which was to have taken place in Hawaii this month, was cancelled.

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We lost a total of twelve Rotarians this year, including our two fallen Rotarians, but despite the Covid-19 lockdown we grew by thirteen, for a net gain of one, bringing our total club membership to 140 Rotarians plus nine honorary Rotarians. We had hoped to award ten Paul Harris Fellowships this year as a club. With the three Paul Harris Fellowships awarded this evening we have brought that number to fifteen.

The Arlington Field of Honor flew 911 flags in Veterans' Park during the week surrounding September 11 to pay tribute to our military veterans, police, fire and first responders. The Rotary Club of Arlington was a major sponsor, providing both money and volunteers. The highlight of the week was the 911 Commemoration at Texas Live. Our keynote speaker was Hon. Brian Birdwell, a Texas state senator who survived the Pentagon crash on September 11, 2001.

Although the Arlington Field of Honor was planned before we knew of the possibility that the National Medal of Honor Museum might build a museum in Arlington, it helped demonstrate the patriotism of our city and let them know they would be welcomed in Arlington. After seeing the flags the museum authorities decided to build their next medal of honor museum here.

American flags were recently posted to recognize front line medical heroes and first responders at the Levitt Pavilion, Heroes Park and at the site of the proposed National Medal of Honor Museum. The Arlington Field of Honor provided those flags. The museum's Vice President of Development, Marc Wolf, spoke to our club this year. And all of this, it should be noted, was brought about by our fellow Rotarian, past club President and the publisher of *The Hubcap*, our weekly newsletter, Clete McAlister.

And, as always, we contributed money. Without going into particulars, you should know that your Rotary dues went to support the Arlington Kindness Initiative, the ARK for kids program (which teaches social skills to our Webb students), the Mentoring Arlington Youth program offered by the Arlington Police Department and the Safe Places for Mommy and Me program,

providing summer camp to homeless children.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the speed and alacrity with which Peter Scott, our own Rotary District Governor, arranged for all the Rotary clubs in our district to have access to Zoom after Covid-19 made it impossible for Rotarians to meet in person. And even more impressively, our club President, Tom Ware, seamlessly transitioned from what he had signed up for – presiding over in-person lunch meetings—to something he did not sign up for – our weekly remote Zoom meetings -- complete with technology that is (at best) unpredictable and (at worst) uncontrollable. My hair as well as my hat are off to Tom for this extraordinary feat of derring-do.

However, what was most important about this Rotary year is how we rose to the occasion to still be of service to our community and each other during the pandemic. It is said that in times of adversity we really discover who we are and what we are made of. We discovered what we are made of this year by continuing our commitment to the primary value of Rotary: Service Above Self. Despite the difficulties we each experienced, whether physical, emotional or financial, our club helped our district find a way to raise \$160,000 to help fight the Coronavirus by providing personal protective equipment to area hospitals with the remaining money going to area food banks.

We discovered who we are by continuing to share our fellowship with each other each week. The mechanism may have been virtual and somewhat remote but the connection was real. In our busy lives our weekly meetings represent an hour of time that we carve out of each week to be with others who inspire and support us. Although we prefer sharing a meal and shaking a few hands the value of these relationships has proven to be strong enough to overcome the restrictions placed on our ability to interact in person recently.

This Rotary year will go down in history. Rotarians who pick up the mantle in the years to come will look at how we met these challenging times. They will learn from our example and be inspired to move on to reach new heights. We should all be proud to have been members of the Rotary Club of Arlington during this Rotary year. I know I am.