

FEBRUARY NEWS



District 6600 has released the first \$10,000 collected from both club and personal contributions just in time to provide irrigation to farms in St Vincent for the dry season. Not only will District 6600 be helping with equipment and installation of these irrigation systems – communications and updates will be provided to each club that has donated to our District project.

Thank you to St Mary's, Cardington, Marion, Oregon/Northwood, Maumee, Lorain, Ottawa Glandorf, Shelby, New Bremen/New Knoxville, Tiffin, Loudonville, and Waterville. Your club contributions have helped us to kick start this campaign and will make a huge difference for others in the world.

A special thank you to the Vermillion Rotary Club! Your news article about our presentation caught the eye of a local company, Xylem Watermark. Xylem has a current business arrangement with the Electric Company in St Vincent. Xylem has pledged to be a full partner in this project by providing funding, equipment, and technical expertise. Xylem is running an internal campaign to support this project and will be matching any internal funds raised in their efforts. In addition, they are championing a multi-thousand-dollar request from their charity foundation.

With help from the other clubs in our District, we can reach our goal to completely fund this project one irrigation system at a time, \$1,000 at a time, one relationship at a time.

Let's fill this bucket and provide the life-giving water to these farms and farmers!!!!

BECOME A PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY MEMBER

The Paul Harris Society recognizes Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who elect to contribute \$1,000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or approved global grants.

District 6600 will reward those members who sign up to become a member of the PHS by offering 500 Foundation points to anyone who becomes a member during the months of February and March.

To sign up, [click here](#). Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to creating lasting change in our world!

SHARING GLOBAL AND DISTRICT INITIATIVES - ENVIRONMENT

[ESRAG](#) is inspiring and enabling Rotarians to advocate for Environmental Sustainability in their Clubs and Districts all over the World. They recently published their updated policy statement and it's worth sharing - [ESRAG Policy Statement on Climate Action](#). "In our role as one of the planet's largest and most networked humanitarian organizations, we are perfectly positioned to tackle the climate crisis; huge humanitarian costs and to rally the people and resources needed to mitigate further destruction.

It's through ESRAG that District 6600 has joined in on exciting environmental advocacy initiatives, such as [Operation Pollination](#), the [DIY Plant Rich Diet Challenge](#), and the [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#). In addition, ESRAG has facilitated making connections with our Northern neighbors in Michigan and Ontario – Rotarians we share a watershed with. This partnership led to signing the Bi-National Pollinator Pledge last September to promote bolstering habitat for nature's busiest workers; as well as to our District helping to fund the Global Grant in St Thomas for a solar refrigeration system that will promote energy justice and food security while reducing carbon emissions. More recently, District 6600 Rotarians shared with neighboring ESRAG members the recipe that went into the successful 6600 tree planting project that will capture and filter nutrient-rich runoff flowing into Lake Erie. In discussions within our District, we are focused on identifying additional properties to replicate and continue this work that has measurable environmental benefits and has shown it can drive engagement and enthusiasm amongst Rotarians.

There is still much work to be done to promote biodiversity in our District. As we get closer to the growing season, it's time to start talking about pollinators again. Consider advocating for your club to start a pollinator garden, or encouraging Rotarians to [plant local at home](#), or turn vacant business property into a [prairie](#). The need for this is high, and the benefits for biodiversity can be transformational. For more inspiration and encouragement, checkout the recorded webinar from [OSU – Pollinator Habitat 101](#). Please reach out to District Environmental Chair Mike Noble for pollinator advocacy resources to get started – MNoble@noblewealthpartners.com



ALL OHIO PETS

Are you a President Elect for your club?

Have you registered for All Ohio President Elect Training?

You definitely SHOULD!

March 10-11 - Columbus Downtown Renaissance

[Click here to register!](#)

FOUR WAY SPEECH CONTEST

Clubs participating in this year's Four Way Speech Contest are encouraged to send their local winner to the District Contest:

April 22 - Niswonger Center,
Van Wert OH

Scholarships awarded to the Top 3
District Winners

Contact: Liz Schultz, youngcolby@yahoo.com



Training

developing the skills,
employees need to perform
improve their performance
skills, and abilities, spec

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Begin planning now for club office and member training - including grant seminar!

Saturday, April 22
Sentinel Vocational Center, Tiffin,
OH