

Rotary Youth Leadership Award – Tanya Witchen

RCSNS sponsors incoming high school seniors to attend the RYLA Camp that is held each summer at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in Robert, LA. This intensive training program enables young people to debate problems of professional responsibility and human relations. We invite the selected students to attend our meetings to meet our members before and after the leadership camp. Duties include distribution and collection of Applications, sending them to the District 6840 RYLA chair, organizing meet and greets with the students and our club. Applications are distributed and submitted by our Chapter Rotarians, Teachers and Counselors in the community. Our Club purchases and distributes a dinner during the camp. **Timeline:** Spring school semester with Camp in July. **Participants:** 1-2 for applications, 4-6 for dinner service.

Irma Cry/Ken Levy Educational Scholarships – Tanya Witchen & Doris Burvant

In honor of Slidell's first female Rotarian Irma Cry and club charter member Ken Levy, this program awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will be attending college or vocational-technical school. Applications are distributed throughout the community, reviewed, and presented to the students at their graduation ceremonies. **Timeline:** Spring. **Participants:** At least 5.

Dictionary Project – Tanya Witchen & Lisa Simms-Hayles

RCSNS members deliver dictionaries to the 3rd grade students in the schools in our community for them to bring home and keep. We also do a small presentation to the students on how to use a dictionary and show other interesting information that is contained in the book. The chairperson contacts the schools to get an approximate student count and then places the order. Once the dictionaries arrive, they are labeled with the Rotary 4-Way Test, sorted and boxed for each school. This year, a letter was sent to each school confirming participation to prevent books that cannot be distributed. For books remaining from last year, the club is determining how these can be distributed. **Timeline:** Fall semester of local school district. **Participants:** 6-8 members for sorting and 8-10 to deliver and do presentations (2-3 at each school).

Thanksgiving Baskets – Joel Bruno, David Brignac

RCSNS assembles and distributes 100-125 holiday food "baskets" to people in need. Duties include ordering supplies and contents for the baskets, picking up the pallets of food from a local grocer, and organizing the food on an assembly line. In lieu of a Tuesday meeting in November, Rotarians get together to pack the boxes. This usually takes 1 – 1½ hours depending on participation. Disbursement of the boxes is usually through local ministers who pick them up for needy people in their communities, as well as the Methodist Foster Care organization. **Timeline:** November Meeting, usually week prior to Thanksgiving. **Participants:** All Members.

Red and Blue Tribute Program – Joel Bruno

Recognition of one or more Fire and Police personnel who have gone beyond the call of duty or who have been involved in something extraordinary. The nominees are chosen by the respective leaders of each organization. Recognition includes presentation at a club meeting, a Certificate of Appreciation, and a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

Timeline: Recognition at one business meeting semi-annually. **Participants:** 1-2.

SERVICE PROJECTS / FUNDRAISERS

Flag Program – Scott Bonson & Miranda Lindsay

This program raises funds through individual donations from residents and companies to support the installation of American flags during patriotic holidays. RCSNS members install and remove at various locations throughout Slidell and store them during other parts of the year. Labor is divided based on neighborhood/commercial location. During early Spring, there is a workday to inventory and replace flags as needed. More than 200 flags are flown as part of the program. **Timeline:** Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, Labor Day thru Patriots Day, and Veterans Day. **Participants:** Neighborhood Team Leader with 2-3 additional members per team. NOTE: In order to grow this project, we need to find some community partners to help with placement. Current partnership with St. Luke Knights of Columbus (physical raising/lowering of flags) and Country Club Estates HOA (distribution of flyers). Current requests to expand this program/fundraiser are limited due to a need for more manpower.

Slidell Heritage Festival – Sharron Newton & Mike Jugan (plus Committee)

Our Club hosts this event with Rotary Club of Slidell and in conjunction with the City of Slidell. Proceeds from this event go back into the community via donations to charities that are selected prior to the event. This is a full day of family fun at Slidell Heritage Park to celebrate heritage and independence and takes place the Saturday prior to the 4th. Duties require soliciting sponsors, manning entrance gates and admission fees, and serving in three drink booths. **Timeline:** Saturday prior to the 4th of July. **Participants:** 6 Festival Board Members plus **ALL MEMBERS**. All RCSNS Members are needed to work this major event in Slidell. On day of event, shifts are 2-4 hours.

Holiday Sweet Potato & Rice Sales – Neil Alford & David Kaufman

Members are required to sell/buy a minimum number of 10-lb boxes of sweet potatoes and 2-lb bags of Cajun “popcorn” rice. Members are asked to solicit family, friends, work associates, etc., for a commitment and can order more than the minimum required.

Timeline: late October/early November. **Participants:** **ALL MEMBERS**.

Holiday Wreaths (Slidell Noon Club coordinates) – Laurie Jugan

Club members can purchase mail-order holiday wreaths as home decoration or gifts. A portion of the proceeds is returned to the club. **Timeline:** late October/early November. **Participants:** Members who choose to participate.

Big Game Raffle (Metairie Club coordinates) – Steve Ernst

Club members sell raffle tickets for numerous prizes. A portion of the proceeds is returned to the club. **Timeline:** June-August. **Participants:** Members who chose to participate.

SUPPPORT TO OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES

Wreaths Across America – Kentrell Jones

Rotarians can volunteer to place the wreaths on graves of soldiers buried at the SE Louisiana Veteran's Cemetery as part of Wreath Across America. **Timeline:** One Saturday in December. **Participants:** Any member wishing to participate.

Bridge House/Grace House Drive – Laurie & Mike Jugan

The Bridge House and Grace House are rehabilitation homes for those recovering from addictions and serve the St. Tammany area. As part of their program, they run a thrift store. Our Club collects gently used items to donate to the thrift store for resale, as well as some newly purchased items for the residents themselves. Annually, we get a list of what residents most need. New and used items are collected at meetings over the month and delivered to the store. **Timeline:** January and February. **Participants:** All to donate goods, 2+ to load and deliver to Thrift Shop.

Rotarian Rosies – Sharron Newton & Laurie Jugan

In partnership with East St Tammany Habitat, RCSNS annually supports a team for the Women's Build Program. Women Rotarians and spouses of Rotarians are eligible. The commitment is one day of building and \$250. The club has been matching the remainder monetary commitment of \$500 to ESTH annually. Also, a part of the program, we have The Refreshment Rosie's – a team helping to nourish all Rosie teams. They ask different businesses in the community to donate lunch for each of the Rosie Teams. Each Rosie arranges for 3-5 lunch donations on various build days and ensures they are delivered and serve the correct number of people. **Timeline:** March 2026. **Participants:** Minimum of 10 on build team (Rotarian spouses welcome), 4-5 on Refreshment Rosies.

Keep Slidell Beautiful – Ken Levy & Nancy Arthur

Liter cleanup for Robert Blvd from the intersection at Gause down to North Blvd. Participants are provided bags or buckets, vests, gloves and pick up devices for litter retrieval. Equipment is secured 2-3 days in advance of the project. Participants meet on the day of the event between 8:00 – 9:00 am with most of the cleanup completed by 10:30 am. Based on instruction from City of Slidell, the bagged trash is disposed of either at a pre-determined dumpster or on the curb for later pick up by City personnel.

Timeline: April and October. **Participants:** 8-10.

Children's Wish Golf Tournament – Damianna Folse

Annual fundraiser for Children's Wish Endowment. Rotarians set up and staff a Bloody Mary Bar on the day of the event. Rotary also purchases a hole sponsorship for this tournament and others that support charities in our city. Club members also participate as a team(s) in the tournament. **Timeline:** September 19, 2025, set-up at 10am and tee times at 1:00 pm, ending about 5pm. **Participants:** 3 shifts of 2-3 people serving drinks, 4-person team(s) to golf.

Blood Drive – Nancy Arthur

Twice annually, RCSNS will organize a Blood Drive at Pinewood Country Club. Club Members are asked to donate and to find others outside the Club to donate. **Timeline:** Semi-annually, in December and June. **Participants:** 1-2 to organize, All Members to donate/identify donors.

Project Christmas – BJ Peterson

St. Tammany Project Christmas was established in 2002 to give families in need in St. Tammany Parish a memorable Christmas. Children are accepted for the program if their families qualify under Federal poverty guidelines. There is a vetting process with other local charities to avoid duplication of services. Our Club coordinates a toy drive and delivers the donations to the East St. Tammany location of Project Christmas during their distribution week in early December. **Timeline:** Monthly Meetings in November.

Participants: All Club Members.

Northshore Food Bank Food Drive – Rich Delgado

Once a year, RCSNS collects food in conjunction with the Northshore Food Bank, Sam's Club and the noon club. Club members hand shoppers a list of needed food items, collect what they purchase, and transfer collected items to a truck provided by the Food Bank.

Timeline: A day in August or September. **Participants:** 1-2 to organize, 2 shifts of 2 hours each, 4-6 people per shift.