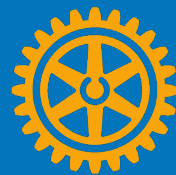


August 2025

Rotary
District 5910



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR Dr. Charles Gilliland

August, the second month of the Rotary year, focuses on membership and new club development, putting the emphasis on recruiting new Rotarians to expand our reach and enhance our impact. Each year we resolve to march forth and enlist more energetic women and men to embrace service above self. And, since 2011, 10 of those 14 years have seen membership decline. From a high in 2012, District 5910 has lost more than 284 members. Clearly, when it comes to solving this problem, we seem to have many questions but few answers.

While approximately 38 percent of District membership reports no age, those that do report paint a portrait of an organization dominated by an older demographic. Those 70 or older make up a four-year average of 18.6 percent, with members 60-69 making up another 13.7 percent, almost one-third of the total. At the other extreme, those 39 or younger compose an average of only 6.6. While the older members have built Rotary into a thriving organization, the future clearly depends on expanding membership among energetic young volunteers.

Obviously, we need to continue to recruit members to our clubs. Programs and efforts aimed at expanding the member totals of existing clubs has not produced an expansion of total members. In fact, we have seen a continued erosion of our membership despite our best efforts. Perhaps we need to rethink our approach to solving this difficulty and make Rotary an organization that young members aspire to join.

Consider nearby communities without a Rotary Club and identify potential candidates you may know there. Then start a conversation with them about organizing a club to do good in their town.

Rotary clubs today differ from the past. No longer does Rotary require weekly attendance. Some clubs only meet every other week and have no programs. The old classification system has vanished. In fact, Rotary has adopted an array of flexible organizational structures designed to make clubs more attractive and relevant to potential members.

District Membership Committee Chair, Amy Killgore can help guide members through the various club structures available. As we unite for good, let's strive to expand Rotary.

10 ideas to maximize engagement during Membership Month from Rotary 360

1. Print "[What is Rotary?](#)" [wallet cards](#) for each member of your club and have a contest to see who can hand out the most in six months.
2. Share "Proud Member" graphics ([Rotary](#) or [Rotaract](#)) with your club and choose a day in August to post it on your social media channels. Remember to include information about how people can check out your club, attend a meeting, or take part in a service project.
3. Set aside a meeting in August to host a Thank-a-thon. Write short notes to new members, donors, businesses in your community, alumni, and anyone who has partnered with your club in the last year. It's a great way to appreciate these supporters and strengthen bonds.
4. Review and update your club information in My Rotary and consider using the optional "Notes" field to include relevant information about accessibility, costs, dress code, or club culture so that prospective members can find you easily and know what to expect.
5. Plan a meeting for members to share their personal Rotary goals for the next year. Get ideas from "[Designing Your Rotary Experience](#)"

Read the rest here: [10 ideas to maximize engagement during Membership Month](#)

Events around the District

8/1-8/31: August Theme is [Membership and New Club Development Month](#)

8/22-8/24: [RYE Inbound Orientation Meeting in Galveston](#)

8/28: [Fins, Feathers and Fore: Guy's Night](#) presented by the Rotary Club of Bridge City-Orangefield

9/6: [Deadline to register for Rotary Leadership Institute \(RLI\) Workshop Part 1](#) (See flyer above for more info!)

9/13: RLI Workshop Part 1 in Alvin

10/4 [Orangetober Festival Vendor Market](#) presented by the Orange Rotary Club

11/15: SAVE THE DATE! [Foundation Celebration honoring Hugh Summers at Houston Marriott North](#)

CONDOLENCES

Please keep Harold L. Fattig, Jr. of the Rotary Club of Texas City and his family in your thoughts and prayers upon the passing of his father, Past District Governor (1986-87) Harold L. Fattig, Sr. of the Rotary Club of Galveston.

Spotlight on...The Rotary Club of Liberty

Members of the Rotary Club of Liberty assembled 42 duffle bags, each filled with fleece blankets, a stuffed animal and coloring books, to donate to the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Liberty & Chambers Counties. CASA provides valuable volunteer advocacy on behalf of children in the foster care system, many of whom have left their homes with little or no belongings, making this donation a truly special one.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS
ADVANCING WOMEN IN ROTARY?



Recognize someone for their work to advance women in Rotary!

Nominations for the Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award are open now through **August 31!** Don't miss your chance to recognize the amazing work being done to advance women in Rotary in your area.

The Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award honors one Rotary member each year – regardless of gender and Rotary tenure – for actively working to advance women in Rotary. Any member can nominate another member in good standing for this award – learn more about Sylvia Whitlock and her legacy, or find the nomination form [here](#).

Pancakes for a Purpose

Members of the Livingston Rotary Club made 1,200 pancakes in two hours for the 800+ staff members of Livingston ISD. Pairing up with First Baptist Church of Livingston, the breakfast was a Back to School event to celebrate the LISD staff as they prepare for the year ahead.



Spindletop stays busy this summer with community projects

While summer may be a time for slowing down and relaxing for some, the Spindletop Rotary Club has stayed busy with numerous community projects, completing several during the month of July.

On July 10, Spindletop Rotarians dropped off pillows benefitting the Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Beaumont program, an organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have a bed to sleep in – their motto is, “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!” The organization reported in June that after delivering more than 760 beds to children in Southeast Texas this year alone, they had completely depleted their pillow supply, which is when Rotarians stepped in to help.

On July 29, a group of 10 Spindletop Rotarians worked at a local community resource center to sort school supplies and prepare 173 backpacks for students in need...in just one hour!

Kudos to these D5910 Rotarians who are embodying the principle of “Uniting for Good!”



Rotarians working to eradicate all forms of Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking

It is estimated that there are 49.6 million people in forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced marriages worldwide. The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) works to help this vulnerable population and is committed to eradicating all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking locally and around the globe.

In the last three years, RAGAS provided \$30,000 in grants to fund projects focused on human trafficking education and prevention, including awareness campaigns and first responders training. Currently, RAGAS is partnering with World Vision and Rotary District 5180 to collect funds for the proposed [Project Dignity Global Grant – Vietnam](#), with World Vision pledging to match what Rotarians raise, up to \$400,000. Learn more about [how to contribute](#).

All Rotarians are invited to join RAGAS, where they will be able to contact fellow members within our Zone, and receive the RAGAS newsletter with information on past, current and future projects and opportunities. [Learn more about becoming a member](#), or if you would like to be connected with a RAGAS Coordinator or Ambassador, email membership@ragas.online.

District 5910 Executives 2025-2026

District Governor: Charley Gilliland (Bryan)
District Governor Elect: Philip Shackelford (Aggieland)
Immediate Past District Governor: Leon Willhite (Palestine)
Vice Governor: Demetress Harrell (Angelina)
District Treasurer: Sloan Shuffler (Downtown Palestine)
District Secretary: Michelle Lyons (Lone Star eClub)
District Governor Nominee: Dana Espinal (Port Arthur)

D5910 Officers and Directors 2025-2026

Assistant Governor Coordinator: Amy Supak (Aggieland)
Club Visioning: Hannah Wilner (The Woodlands)
District Grants/DEI Chair: Ruth Suhler (Galveston)
District Finance/Membership Chair: Amy Killgore (League City)
District Learning Facilitator: Karen Chapman (Lone Star eClub)
District Peace Committee: Michael Hayes (Conroe)
Empowering Girls Chair: Patricia McKenzie (Angelina)
Endowment/Major Gifts: Sherry Bogus (Lake Conroe)
Global Grants Chair: Real Provencher (Magnolia)
Global Scholar/Public Image Chair: Rebekah Maxwell (Beaumont)
Interact Chair: Bunny Pratt (Bryan)
Lone Star PETS Representative: Rhonda Herrington (Palestine)
Paul Harris Society Coordinator: Barbara Winburn (Galveston)
PolioPlus Chair: Jay Wilson (Beaumont)
Roll of Fame: Glen Brewer (Aggieland)
Rotaract Chair: Birda Gaskin (Lone Star eClub)
Rotaract Representative: Andres Briceño Mendoza (The Woodlands Rotaract)
Rotary Foundation Chair: Bobby Chapman (Lone Star eClub)
RYLA Chair: Michael Perez (Beaumont)
Youth Exchange Chair: Carol Mattingly (Huntsville)
Youth Protection Officer: Chris Turner (Friendswood)

Have an item for the newsletter? Send it to District Secretary Michelle Lyons so we can include it!

Rotary Youth Exchange Students are arriving!

It is once again that exciting time of year for Rotary Youth Exchange as our inbound students begin to arrive. Our first inbound arrived on August 2 and we have so far welcomed seven of our students to Texas. Each has been greeted at the airport by a contingent of Rotarians and host families and we know they will have a wonderful year. Welcome to Texas, Veronica, Map, Vanessa, Lilou, Liz, Alejandra and Giullia!



Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Conroe as they celebrate 93 years of dedicated service to their community on August 26!