

RYLA Presenters 2025

Friday, May 9, 2025- "Live Your Dash"



Bobby Sheets has a strong passion and dedication to teenagers and has worked with youth for over 30 years in a variety of arenas. He is an inspirational and motivational speaker who uses visuals, audience participation, storytelling, and humor in his message. Bobby reminds teenagers that they have the ability to make an impact and a difference with their life...whether it be at school, with their team, with friends, or at work. His message to youth is that we only get one shot in life, and he encourages and challenges us to make our "dash" count in order to make a difference within our own lives. Bobby is a graduate of Lincoln Christian University and is the lead pastor of Riverside Community Church in Machesney Park, Illinois. In his spare time, he enjoys sports, mountain biking, bull riding, rodeos, storytelling, watching John Wayne movies, hanging out on Indian reservations, and spending time with his 9 grandchildren.

Saturday, May 10, 2025- "Professionalism Doesn't Matter, Said No Employer Ever!"

Andrea Gibbs has spent 30 years in manufacturing & business-to-business marketing in Product Management & Marketing Communications. She has a Bachelor of Political Science degree and a master's degree in Business Administration. Andrea has taught at Rockford University as an adjunct professor and has also taught continuing education for General Electric, Collins Aerospace, and the Rockford Police Department. During this presentation, participants will learn to interact using good communication skills at home, school, and the workplace. Modern technology is also covered along with the do's and don'ts of using electronic devices today. Andrea loves to speak French, travel, and cook...she is always looking for a great pasta recipe! Ask her about the Wooden Spoon story, and she will know that you pay attention to the details!



Saturday, May 10, 2025- "Rotary Youth Exchange"



Ciara Stahly may be young, but she has been around Rotary for a long time! She started her Rotary journey as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Sweden in 2011-2012. Developing an immediate passion for the Youth Exchange Program, she became a volunteer for the program immediately upon her return to the area. Ciara served as a youth exchange volunteer from 2012 to 2017. Ciara served as President of Loves Park Rotary from 2019-2020 and went on to become the Youth Exchange Officer for Loves Park from 2018 to 2022. She became the District 6420 Outbound Coordinator for Youth Exchange in 2022 and continues to hold that position. Last year, she and her husband, Noah, were host parents to the Loves Park youth exchange student, Sofie, who is from Denmark. Ciara studied Psychology at Rockford University and currently works at the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois and is the Assistant Development Director. Her presentation will discuss Rotary's Youth Exchange program and the impact that youth exchange has on our community and world.

**rotary
youth
leadership
awards**

Saturday, May 10, 2025- "Rotary Showcase- Pollinator Project "

Bobbi Burke started her college career in 1978 as an Agriculture major and quickly discovered that horticulture was right up her alley! She completed an Associate of Applied Science in Horticulture degree from Kishwaukee College in 1981 and began a hydroponic greenhouse with her husband...growing tomatoes and cucumbers that had to be hand pollinated...Bobbi was the bee! Bobbi became a Rotarian in 1988 and served as District Governor from 2019-2020, and she is still proudly serving her community as a Rotarian! Fast forward through 2 more degrees including a Dr. of Chiropractic degree, 3 children, 7 moves and 43 years of marriage. Bobbi retired from being a Chiropractor in 2004 and then became a substitute teacher in Rochelle and also served as an Associate Professor at Kishwaukee College. She completed her Master Gardener training in 2015. As a Master Gardener, Bobbi presents programs in the community on a variety of topics including Pollinators. During this presentation, she will discuss District 6420's Pollinator Project and the impact and importance of why producing pollinator gardens is important for our environment.



Sunday, May 11, 2025- "Discovering Your Superpower"



Dr. Bryan Wills graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 2003 and is currently a school board member of the Oregon School District, serving as President since 2017. Dr. Wills is extremely passionate about helping people, whether it is through chiropractic care to live a healthier life or through personal growth, coaching individuals to live a more fulfilled and successful life. This is expressed best through his mission statement of delivering hope. Bryan is an avid sports fan, and during his free time, you can find him golfing, playing catch, or shooting hoops with his wife and two children. During this presentation, students will learn the #1 ingredient of success: self-awareness. Students will learn about the Enneagram, which provides the perfect tool to help us understand how we take in, procure, and react to what life throws at us. This allows us to become the best version of ourselves...setting us up for success and creating the life you want!