



DISTRICT 6820 Newsletter / August 2020

Governor Ed Thurmond



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in my District Governor Installation ceremony. The family of Rotary holds a special place in my heart. Oh, how I would love to get out, visit clubs, shake hands, and get hugs. I want to make new Rotary friends and renew old acquaintances, but it will have to be when things are safer. For right now, I am willing to Zoom with any club wishing to accept my DG visit in that manner.

Rotary International designates August as Membership Month. At this special time, we need to make sure we hold on to current members and encourage new faces to join us. Service projects are a great way to get

club members together while doing good work in our communities and visit with each other while social distancing. This would be an excellent time to invite a non-Rotarian to join you in the project—this lets them get to know your club members better, while at the same time getting across a clear understanding of what Rotary is about.

Unfortunately, many people are unaware that our clubs do great work in our communities. We need to share that good work, so I encourage all clubs to publicize their activities. Use the local news media, Facebook and—above all else—communicate your efforts to our District so they can be included here in the newsletter. All of this will help encourage others in their own projects.

Satellite clubs may be one answer for involving others in Rotary. I encourage all of our clubs to look into the possibility of establishing them. Our meeting times are not always convenient for some, so consider a satellite club that meets at breakfast or at Happy Hour after work. We could also consider family clubs, where husbands and wives come with the kids. Satellite club members only have to pay our District and national dues while being counted in the local club's membership total. They don't have to bear the expense of meals, and they can definitely join your club's service projects. Our District 6820 Satellite Club Chair is our innovative PDG Mark Fields, and he'll be glad to help you get started.

School will soon start, so now is the time to consider an Interact club for young people in high school. Nancy Hungerford is again our Interact Chair and would love to assist as you start an Interact Club in your community. Always remember that we have a great District team assembled, with a primary goal of helping our clubs in any way possible. Call on them any time for help and support.

Now that we've had a little break and adjusted to the new environment around us, let's move forward to make sure our clubs meet regularly, and let's get those community service projects going.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISITS GO VIRTUAL

Due to the recommendations issued by the directors of Rotary International, all scheduled visits are planned to be virtual visits. This is all very fluid, but if possible I plan to make every effort to have face-to-face club visits in 2021 as time permits. Invitations to join in local club projects with proper social distancing are welcome – DG Ed Thurmond



Zoom Meeting Date / Rotary Club

Monday, August 24 / Kosciusko
Tuesday, August 25 / West Jackson
Wednesday, August 26 / Waynesboro
Thursday, August 27 / Taylorsville
Monday, August 31 / Starkville
Monday, August 31 / Capital Area-Sunset

Tuesday, September 1 / Macon
Wednesday, September 2 / Yazoo City
Thursday, September 3 / Canton
Tuesday, September 8 / North Jackson
Wednesday, September 9 / Hollandale
Thursday, September 10 / Vicksburg
Friday, September 11 / Carthage
Monday, September 14 / Ellisville
Tuesday, September 15 / Laurel
Wednesday, September 16 / Meridian
Thursday, September 17 / Rankin County
Friday, September 18 / Rolling Fork
Monday, September 21 / Collins
Tuesday, September 22 / Greenwood
Wednesday, September 23 / Forest
Thursday, September 24 / South Rankin
Monday, September 28 / Jackson



Zoom Meeting Date / Rotary Club (continued)

Tuesday, September 29 / Columbus
Wednesday, September 30 / Louisville



Thursday, October 1 / Greenville
Monday, October 5 / Bay Springs
Wednesday, October 7 / Inverness
Tuesday, October 13 / Indianola
Thursday, October 15 / Brookhaven
Tuesday, October 20 / Flowood
Friday, October 23 / Itta Bena
Tuesday, October 27 / Newton
Thursday, October 29 / Mad.-Ridgeland

Friday, October 2 / Leland
Tuesday, October 6 / Eupora
Thursday, October 8 / Winona
Wednesday, October 14 / Natchez
Monday, October 19 / Philadelphia
Wednesday, October 21 / Clinton
Monday, October 26 / South Hinds
Wednesday, October 28 / Belzoni
Tuesday, November 3 / Lexington

IMPORTANT: Until your club is able to meet in person, try video conferencing! You can still book great speakers, and you can still have meaningful service projects! Yes, it can be done. Check with your assistant governor if you need help with the set-up.

IS A SATELLITE CLUB IN YOUR FUTURE?

Do you or someone you know want to start a Rotary club, but you don't have enough members? Are there members who love your club but can't keep attending when it meets? Is your Rotary club not meeting your expectations? Would you like to start a new club with a small, energetic group committed to community service?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, starting a satellite club might help. Contact Mark Fields, District 6820 Satellite Club Chair, at mfields5@gmail.com.

From Rotary District 6820 Public Service Chair PDG Amanda Fontaine . . .

We want every club to complete a service project for our military and veterans this year! Some already have firm plans, but if yours doesn't, here are a few ideas:

Care packages to deployed troops. We'll get you a packing list and contact info.

Food pantries and clothing closets are in Senatobia, Jackson, Corinth, Starkville, and Camp Shelby. All need dry goods, soap, deodorant, razors, and shaving cream.

May is Military Appreciation Month. Coordinate something special with Memorial Day. Also, May 7, 2021 is Military Spouse Day. Gifts for the spouses, maybe?



Think about a Veterans Day program as close to November 11 as possible.

Contact your local armory (there's one in every county) to present something to them at drill. Most have a Christmas event in December for soldiers and their families. Google the National Guard or your county or city to find the local armory info (they would need to be contacted between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.).

Let us know by August 15, in an email, what your club will be doing. Alert your local media when you roll out your project, as the coverage will help others know the wonderful things you are doing in your community—and make sure we at District have a copy of the newspaper feature, radio interview, or television interview. We will keep all of them on file. For that matter, let me know of the service projects *of all kinds* that your club will be doing this year! We want to keep those great ideas on file here at the District, too!

Email me at amanda@msbroadcasters.org with questions, and reach out to my fellow committee members Danny Brunt (danny.brunt@iveymechanical.com) and Glenn Helman (glenn.hellman@yahoo.com).

THIS IS WHAT TEAMWORK LOOKS LIKE!

Here's an excerpt from a letter to Felipe Zuluaga of the Madison-Ridgeland club regarding the February Rise Against Hunger event, which included participation from Madison-Ridgeland, North Jackson, Flowood, and Capital Area/Sunset:



“We’re delighted to announce that the meals from your Rise Against Hunger Experience on 2/22/2020 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Jackson warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner Hopestart International, Inc. in Haiti.

Thank you for generously giving your time to volunteer and packaging meals with Rise Against Hunger. We are sincerely grateful for your dedication and for sharing our vision of a world without hunger.

Due to the global health crisis, our meal inventory is shrinking. We are working to find ways to still meet the needs of our beneficiaries. To make a difference in the lives of children and families worldwide during this challenging time, donate to riseagainsthunger.org/meettheneed.”



Dear Ed, congratulations on becoming District Governor. Today the Jackson club had a speaker on the 2020 census and how it is extremely important to get everyone to return the information. Mississippi could lose as much as \$50 million in federal money over the next ten years if only fifty percent of its residents send in their information. Please send a reminder to all members of District 6820 to send it in and make sure everyone they know does also. Thanks, Janet Scott—Executive Director, Greater Jackson Arts Council

The Kay Steed Award

A tribute to District 6820's First Female Governor

Since spring 2016, The Kay Steed Award has been presented each year to the female Rotarian judged as having provided exceptional contribution, personal commitment, and service to District 6820. The award is unique in that it is a traveling display of decorative Rotary lapel pins collected from across the country and the world by one of Mississippi's first and foremost female Rotarians.



Kay Steed was an early member of the Madison-Ridgeland Rotary Club and set the bar for women in leadership roles. Active in business and community, she quickly rose through the club and district officer ranks to become the 2003-2004 District Governor. Kay remains the gold standard for women in Rotary.

Past District Governor Bob Graves highlights the history behind the award. He says that “Kay’s daughter worked at a bank in Winona. The VP was a Rotarian. She told me at Rotary that Kay’s daughter had all the Rotary pins Kay had collected over the years, and she wanted to give them to someone that was a Rotarian. Kay loved Rotary so much and had been such a trailblazer for Women in Rotary. I suggested that an outstanding female Rotarian should be honored, and Kay’s pins would make a nice award.”



PDG Bob also fondly recalls that “I proposed Kay for membership to the Madison-Ridgeland Club. In about the fastest time you could do it, Kay became DG. I love Kay. I am proud that the District recognizes her with this award.”



THIS IS NOT A MASK!
This is care, concern, protection,
awareness, safety, and responsibility.
This is a Rotarian.

If your club has special stories that merit media coverage, your District Public Image Committee wants to help get the word out. Our volunteer “Dream Team” of marketing, public relations, and social media professionals stand ready to assist with all channels of publicity and promotion. We can also assist with developing a club communication plan, conduct “how-to” workshops, and program speakers.

To learn more, contact District 6820 Public Image Chair Barbara Travis at 601-940-9752 or mktlynx@bellsouth.net.

ZONE 30/31 MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE

Sharon Moulder, District 6820 Membership Chair

I'm excited to be District 6820's Membership Chair for 2020-2021. I have two Committee Members at this time, John Rings of Madison-Ridgeland and Rosie Jackson of Collins. We need more volunteers for our committee. The idea is to create a District team of facilitators, to be trained by Zone 30/31.

We plan to meet with every club in the District as soon as possible. If your club is looking to grow and retain members we are here to help. We can meet in person or have a Zoom meeting. The meetings will last two hours, or we can break it up in two one-hour sessions. They will be very fast paced and on topic.

Our team will provide clubs with Attraction Strategies and Engagement Strategies; together we will come up with the best strategies for your club. The Membership Committee will follow up with your club on a regular basis to help keep the momentum going. We will be available to assist or answer questions throughout the year.

I feel that engagement is very important in retaining members. We all became Rotarians because we wanted to do something good in the world. It is important to assign new members to a committee as soon as they join—get them involved and they will stay. Retention is just as important as getting new members.

Let's work together to grow our clubs and District. If you're interested in becoming a facilitator, contact me at sharon@lsacpafirm.com or 601-850-9863.



DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY



Dan Burchfield (right), at his first meeting as president of the Eupora Rotary, presents a gavel plaque of appreciation to Past President Josh Whitlock. The plaque recognizes Whitlock for his dedicated service and leadership during the 2019-20 club year. The presentation was made during the club's July 7 meeting.

The Indianola Rotary Club fed the Indianola Police Department this week with the help of Nola Restaurant.



On July 22, Renae Griffith, president of the Louisville Junior Auxiliary, updated the Rotary of Louisville on the many ongoing JA projects. Club members are asked to bring a few school supplies to help with the JA School Supply Drive.

DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY

Thanks to District 6820 and RST for the portable dentist chair! Hard at work is Dr. Tomas Gonzalez, president of Club Rotario Tlaquepaque Industrial. There are many ways you can do important service work to help people around the world, and in doing so you will satisfy the international service requirement toward the annual Rotary Citation.



Congratulations to Winona Rotarian Amanda Ferguson, who won the Joel Chapman Memorial Rotarian of the Year Award for the club year 2019-2020. She is pictured with Past club president James Hunger.

Vicksburg Rotarian Mack Varner (who was just appointed to the Mississippi State Flag Commission) recognizes Toni Lanford-Ferguson as the first female Vicksburg Rotarian and the first female club president. Also pictured are the other female past presidents: Donna Ingram, Lynn Foley, Toni Lanford-Ferguson, Annette Kirklin, and Leslie Sadler.



DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY



The Rotary Club of North Jackson recently installed their new board members for the 2020-21 Rotary year. Standing from left: Greg Campbell, Immediate Past President; Don Roberts, Executive Secretary/Treasurer; Chris Brantley, Sergeant at Arms; Neelam Goel, Foundation Chair; Bill Osborne, Public Relations Director; Jenny Price, Administration Director; and Lori Greer, Service Director. Seated from left, Uriel Pineda, Secretary; Dr. Suman Das, Vice-President; Lee Carney, President and Larry Anderson, Treasurer. Not pictured, Matt Monsour, Membership Director.

Congratulations to Winona Rotarian Lawrence Austin on earning your Paul Harris Fellow pin and certificate, and thanks for your service to our great country! That's PDG Bob Graves making the presentation.



IMPORTANT: If you or a member of your club are not receiving District 6820 communications, please send your updated/correct email address to Jennifer Bucurel at jenniferbucurel@yahoo.com.

District 6820 Club secretaries and membership chairs, as soon as possible please send updates/corrections to your club rolls to Jen as well!

Visit the District 6820 website often to keep up with what's going on and to register for upcoming events! Bookmark us: www.rotary6820.org.



Ready to start an Interact club or Rotaract club? It's fun and rewarding for your club to watch the young people you're mentoring run the new club on their own, and it's also a Rotary Citation requirement.

Email Nancy Hungerford about launching an Interact club (nphungerford@gmail.com)

Email J.C. Patton Jr. about starting a Rotaract club (jpatton@pattonlawoffice.net)

Email PDG Mark Fields about starting a Satellite club (mfields5@gmail.com)



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Questions or concerns about the District 6820 newsletter?
Contact DG Ed Thurmond at edthurmond@gmail.com

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