



## **DISTRICT 6820 Newsletter / July 2020**

### **Governor Ed Thurmond**



## **DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**

Before a word is printed about me and our new Rotary year, I want to express congratulations to our newest PDG, Mark Fields, for the super effort he gave and the accomplishments he made in leading us through the 2019-20 Rotary year. He had an excellently-planned District Conference that was thrown off course by COVID-19. Regardless of the obstacles placed before him, Mark did a great job and we thank him for it.

I am honored and privileged to serve as your District Governor for the year 2020-2021. And what a year it will be, beginning in the middle of this pandemic! We closed our previous year with our first-ever virtual international convention, and this year begins with social distancing with

our international office closed through December 31. We will face challenges of a different world, but one that—with our continued service to our fellow man—will be a better world.

In January, while attending the International Assembly required for Governor training, the International President-elect, Holger Knaack, revealed the 2020-21 theme: ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES. During his address, he quoted a statement by Paul Harris which says, “Rotary must be revolutionary from time to time.” This theme and the Paul Harris statement could never be more appropriate than now.

Rotary indeed opens doors of opportunity, and our motto of “service above self” can walk right through. When we develop service projects (even very small ones that all our members can participate in), we not only serve others but *each other* in fulfilling a feeling of membership and participation in the service. When members are involved, they are active members and will attract more members.

We must let the world know the good that our clubs do. I challenge you all to have several projects often, and with various members involved. We can all participate in a district-wide project. And then, let’s publicize it! This will be how we attract new members and keep those we have. The doors of opportunity are wide open, so let’s get everyone involved and let the world see what we can do!

We are compelled to be revolutionary now because of social media and meetings with Zoom. It is a challenge for us, but let us use this technology to our advantage. Be creative with projects. Involve more people. And get the results on social media. Please use the District 6820 directory to find those on the district level who can assist you with technology as well as all other areas of Rotary life.

I encourage you to have fun being a Rotarian. During this epidemic, one of the best ways is to participate in a community service project. I look forward to working with you to continue the Rotary tradition in District 6820 and around the world. Yours in Rotary Service – Ed

# 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

**TILL WE MEET AGAIN ...TRY VIDEO CONFERENCING!**  
**YOU CAN STILL BOOK GREAT SPEAKERS!**  
**YOU CAN STILL HAVE MEANINGFUL SERVICE PROJECTS!**  
**CHECK WITH YOUR ASSISTANT GOVERNOR IF YOU NEED HELP!**

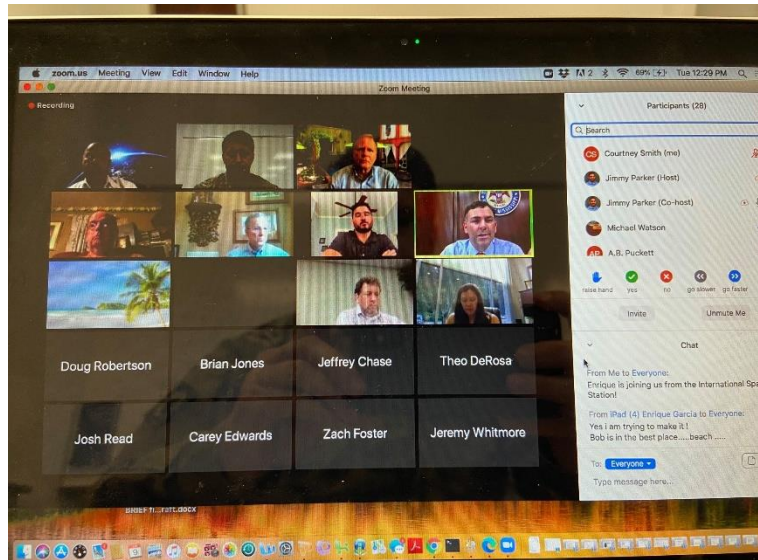


**Rotary**  
Club of Columbus, MS



**A  
Conversation  
With**  
**Mississippi  
Secretary of State**  
**Michael  
Watson**  
**June 9, 2020  
12:00 PM CST**

TO JOIN ZOOM MEETING COPY AND  
PASTE THE LINK PROVIDED  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82436845187>



## **MARK DIBIASE APPROVED AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE**

*Mark DiBiase was approved at the District 6820 Business Meeting in mid-June as the new District Governor Nominee. He will follow DG Elect Mark Anderson, who will succeed DG Ed Thurmond.*



Mark DiBiase graduated Magna Cum Laude from Grove City College with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Systems. He has over 31 years of project, production, engineering and computer experience, holding a variety of management positions with Milwaukee Electric Tool, James Hardie, U.S. Gypsum, and Armstrong. In 2003, he became President and Owner of Infinite Concepts, a computer network and administration firm located in Greenville. His company received the “Greenville Honors It’s Own” award in 2009 for its support of the arts and was honored as a “Top in Tech 2019” recipient by the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

A Rotarian for 15 years, Mark has served as Assistant Governor for District 6820 for the past two years. He also serves on the 6820 International Service Committee and has participated in both the 2019 and 2020 International Service Trips to Guadalajara, Mexico. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the Rotary Club of Greenville from 2011–2019. As President in 2017-2018, he helped guide his club to the District 6820 Large Club of the Year Award. Mark is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a Paul Harris Society member.

Mark has served on and has been President of multiple community Boards of Directors in Greenville including The Greenville Arts Council, Delta Center Stage, and The United Way of Washington County. He lives outside Leland with his wife Rhonda, also a Rotarian a Paul Harris Fellow, and has two grown children, Courtney and Anthony.

***Congratulations, Mark! We appreciate your years of service to Rotary!***



# A WINDOW INTO OUR MANY DISTRICT 6820 SERVICE PROJECTS

*In putting a strong emphasis on club service this Rotary year, DG Ed Thurmond encourages all clubs to list service projects that are new for 2020-2021 as well as those that have been successful in the past. Take a look at what's in the planning stages or already a service staple. The examples may spur creative thinking in your own club.*



## INVERNESS

Blood drives / Scholarships for high school students / Donations to those who cook the club's meals / Volunteering with Delta Grace, a multi-denominational, faith-based organization that matches mission teams with those in need of home repairs.

## RANKIN COUNTY



The Mustard Seed (a home for adults with developmental disabilities) / Keep the Reservoir Beautiful / Dictionary Projects

## INDIANOLA

Slam Dunk the Junk (anti-littering campaign) / Dictionary Projects / Indian Bayou Arts & Eats Festival (helping with festival operations) / B.B. King Homecoming Festival (helping with festival operations)

# A WINDOW INTO OUR MANY DISTRICT 6820 SERVICE PROJECTS

## MADISON-RIDGELAND

MadCAAP / Rise Against Hunger / Dictionary projects / Alzheimer's Association / Special Olympics / Rotary Youth Exchange Program / Sunnybrook Farms / International clean water project / Jimmy Nelson Scholarship

## SOUTH RANKIN

ERCO (Ever Reaching Community Outreach in Pelahatchie) / The Mississippi Children's Museum / The Mustard Seed



## FLOWOOD



Dictionary projects / The Mustard Seed / Scholarships to winners from Hartfield Academy and NW Rankin Interact Clubs / Gatorade and Chick Fil A for Reservoir Fire Department at annual 9/11 Run Around the Reservoir / Made in the Shade 5K Walk-Run / Salvation Army Bell Ringing / Holiday Cards for Overseas Military

## ATTENTION DISTRICT 6820: MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!



**“Let’s Give ’Em Something to Talk About”**

As the new Rotary year kicks in, new doors of opportunity for service have swung open revealing unique Rotary Club stories for show and tell. So, as songster Bonnie Raitt says, “Let’s Give ’Em Something to Talk About.”

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](mailto:mktlynx@bellsouth.net).



**FORE! HELP SUPPORT THE CLINTON ROTARY**

*Rotary Club of Clinton*

**2020**

**FAKE** *Golf Tournament*

**BENEFITTING THE CLINTON COMMUNITY  
NATURE CENTER & THE 4 C'S**

*Sign up today!*

For more information and to register, email [shellywithers1229@gmail.com](mailto:shellywithers1229@gmail.com).

**LIVE OAKS™**  
— GOLF CLUB —

**2020 CORPORATE SPONSORS**



[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## LACE UP THE WALKING SHOES AND HELP SUPPORT THE WEST JACKSON ROTARY CLUB



Please note that this race, as of June 30, is now a **VIRTUAL** event. But you can still take part by walking or running your own course and still help benefit the West Jackson community! Please register online at [www.RaceRoster.com](http://www.RaceRoster.com) and call 601-454-5051 for more information.

## TRY A VIRTUAL 5K AND SUPPORT THE CAPITAL AREA SUNSET CLUB!



This one is also virtual, which means you can walk or run in your own space at your own pace! It's from July 3-5. Please join us! Register NOW at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com).

# DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY

The Rotary Club of Greenville awarded scholarships to worthy recipients at the six area high schools who demonstrate high ethical standards. The winners, shown here, are usually presented at the annual Four-Way Test meeting in April. Due to the COVID-19 virus, they were notified through mail and phone calls.

*Greenville Christian*  
**Annakathryn Clary**



*Greenville Weston*  
**Chelsie Mickel**



*Riverside*  
**Angel Woods**



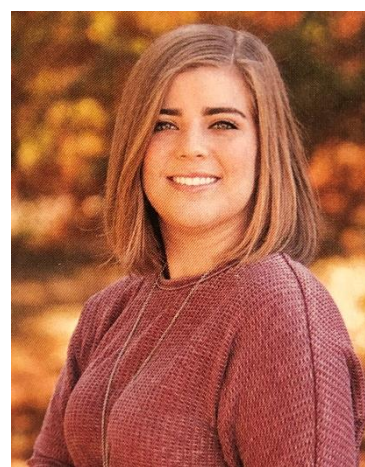
*St. Joseph*  
**Skyler Triplett**



*O'Bannon*  
**Shaniah Vaughn**



*Washington*  
**Kendall McKinnon**



The Greenville Rotary couldn't be prouder to honor these ladies in this year of 2020.



# DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY



Merit Health Natchez displays a check for \$3,845 from the Rotary International Disaster Response Fund. Tom Johnson, chairman of the Disaster Relief Committee of District 6820 (far right) and Natchez Rotary Club President Diana Glaze (far left) present the funds to Merit Health CEO Lance Boyd, and CFO Amelia Conner. (Photo courtesy: *The Natchez Democrat*)



A check for \$3,872.00 was delivered to the University of Mississippi Medical Center as part of a \$25,000 grant provided by Rotary International to allow local hospitals to purchase additional PPE for health care workers during the COVID-19 crisis. Pictured from left: Dr. Charles O'Mara, Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs, Tom Johnson, and Dr. John Purvis, UMMC children's orthopedist.

# DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY

Members of the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Rotary Club and other volunteers delivered the week's harvest of tomatoes from the Brookhaven Community Garden to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on June 19.



The Rotary Club of Vicksburg honored two students with 2020 Scholarships: Ann Elizabeth Farthing, winner of the Edley Jones, Jr. Academic Scholarship, and Coleman Verhine, who won the Landman Teller, Jr. Service Scholarship. Both students attended St. Aloysius High School.

The North Jackson Rotary honored the Jackson Police Department Precinct 4 Officers with meals from Aplos Restaurant. Shown from left with the meals are JPD Precinct 4 Commander Tyrone Buckley and JPD Deputy Chief Tiny Harris.





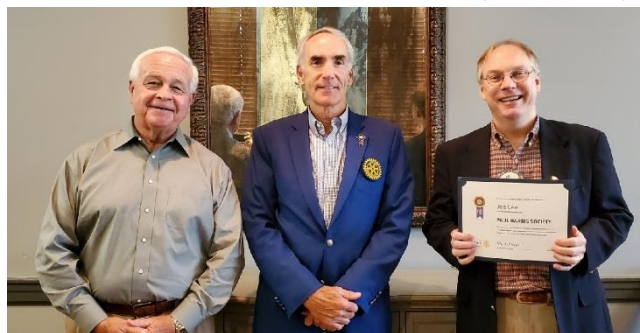
# DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY



The Passing of the Gavel ceremony of the Louisville Rotary Club was held on June 25, as Speedy Calvert (left) passed the gavel to incoming president Brooke Eaves, who passed the vice-president's gavel to incoming vice-president Kyle Curran. Nadine Kirk was presented the Paul Harris +2 pin from John Fair. A big congratulations

to Steve Anderson, who was recognized for 36 years of perfect attendance and being selected as District 6820's Rotarian of the Year!

The Flowood Rotary's Passing of the Gavel Ceremony took place June 30, with Robert Dienelt passing the gavel to Blake Chance. New members Chase Frazure, Jara Miller, Rob Oates, Hue Jackson (not pictured), and honorary member Greg Wilcox were recognized. Roscoe Greene was awarded the Paul Harris +6 pin, and Joe Lee was recognized for joining the Paul Harris Society. The group was joined by DG Mark Fields, who had a busy final day!



# DISTRICT 6820 PHOTO GALLERY



The Rotary Club of Vicksburg awarded Mack Varner the Harry Gillespie Rotarian of the Year Award for 2019-2020. And several Vicksburg Rotarians participate in the June 27 Star Spangled Night Run, including medal-winning Blake Teller!



DG Ed and Fran Thurmond while participating in the Zone 30-31 Virtual District Governor Installation. On the program was the current and incoming RI Presidents and four Past RI Presidents. There was also the current RI Director Floyd Lancia and four past RI Directors.

Congratulations and best wishes to Harlee Whitten, who was honored with the Shed Hunger-Ralph Applewhite Memorial Scholarship for our concluding Rotary year.



**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:nphungerford@gmail.com))

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



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DISTRICT 6820  
FACEBOOK PAGE!!**



Rotary 

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206145869428465>

Questions or concerns about the District 6820 newsletter?

Contact DG Ed Thurmond at [edthurmond@gmail.com](mailto:edthurmond@gmail.com)

The District 6820 newsletter is edited by Joe Lee.

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