

# THE ROTARY RAZZ

## Rotary



Club of Oak Park-River Forest

**Meetings:** Noon Wednesday  
Cucina Paradiso, 814 North Blvd.,  
Oak Park, IL

**President Patty Eggerding**

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<http://www.oprfrotary.org>

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Club 3190/District 6450

July 6, 2022

## Rotary

Club of Oak Park - River Forest



**7/06/2022 at 12:00**  
**@ Cucino Paradiso**



Please join us at noon Wednesday July 6 at Cucina Paradiso, for fellowship, food and fun! It's Patty Eggerding's first official meeting as President.

### DONUT DAY SIGN-UP

Please join us Aug. 13 for our annual Donut Day at Pilgrim Congregational Church. You can sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4dadab2baa8-donut2>



### Contribute to the Cassin-Germanson Fund

Consider giving to the Cassin-Germanson Fund. Go to the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation website to donate to the fund through this link: <https://bit.ly/35ahyoB>  
All contributions are invited and welcome. Donations can be made by check with a note "for the Cassin-Germanson Fund."

## CALENDAR



### July

- 6 — Lunch meeting. Fellowship at Cucina Paradiso.
- 9 — Fullerton Woods Cleanup Day — Club service project to adopt the Fullerton Woods, 8413 West Fullerton Ave. River Grove.
- 13 — Lunch meeting. Fellowship at Cucina Paradiso.
- 20 — Service Project. We will not be meeting at Cucina but instead will assist with a book collection drive. More information to follow.
- 27 — No meeting.

### August

- 3 — Lunch meeting. Fellowship at Cucina Paradiso.
- 10 — Lunch meeting. Fellowship at Cucina Paradiso.
- 13 — DONUT DAY.
- 13 — Fullerton Woods Cleanup Day — Club service project to adopt the Fullerton Woods, 8413 West Fullerton Ave. River Grove.

**Thanks  
to our  
Sponsors**

**GOLD**

**SILVER**

**BRONZE**

Very simply, June has been an extremely busy Rotary month. With our club sponsoring a successful DG Installation on June 22 for DG Ade Onayemi, the District Final board meeting, and the District Annual Awards Banquet on June 30<sup>th</sup>, many of our members have been involved in Rotary activities more days than they can count.

Our June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting was beautifully led by 2022-23 President Patty Eggerding, who opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. As a reflection, she asked us as a group to focus on two items: [1] a thank you to Lesley Gottlinger and the DG Installation team for an amazing event held at Abbington Distinctive Banquets, and [2] wishes for our new DG Ade Onayemi to have the very best year ever.

Our lunch meeting then progressed to share the details of the Bernie's Books Service Project scheduled for Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. See the flyer attached to this RAZZ. You may sign up on our website or reach out to Lesley Gottlinger to sign up. Also, please remember to make your lunch choice. **There will be NO regular lunch meeting that day.**

The Greater OP-RF-FP Interact Club is sponsoring our first service project of the new Rotary year. In conjunction with Bernie's Book Bank and our own OPRF Rotary Club, we will be collecting, and sorting used but in excellent-condition books for children from birth through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

This "pop-up" book event will replace our July 20<sup>th</sup> lunch. **It will run in two 120-minute shifts from approximately 9:30AM until 1:30PM. The event will take place in the lower-level parking lot of the First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park, 60301.**

#### Pop Up Book Event Volunteer Descriptions

Each shift will include an additional 15 minutes at the very start used as intro and training. The first volunteers should arrive by 9:45, the second set should arrive at 11:45. Look for the green truck in the parking lot. We will have a period between the 2 shifts to reset and get books moved around.

The volunteer roles are:

- Book Removal - Volunteers will remove books from the back of cars and put them on tables. This doesn't have

to be heavy work as you can take them by the handful instead of moving an entire box.

- Book Sorting - volunteers will examine books for damage and whether they fit our mission. Training is provided. Usually, this work is done standing but can also be done seated.

Volunteers can go between jobs depending on traffic flow and what is needed.

Bernie's provides bottled water for the volunteers who are encouraged to dress appropriately, Box lunches will also be provided. Rotarians, Interactors, friends, and other volunteers will **NEED TO R.S.V.P.** so we can ensure having a lunch for you. Choices will include both regular and vegetarian/vegan options. Please see Lesley for more details which will also appear in the next two issues of the RAZZ.

Lesley then shared a 6-minute slide show from the Ade/Patty Installation dinner. It can be made available to anyone who has not yet seen it.

Mike Sletten, Patty Eggerding, and the Foor Truck Rally Committee shared they still need 48 volunteers for the August 27<sup>th</sup> event. Registration is now open on our website. Simply go to **Volunteer Opportunities** to sign up. Any questions or problems, reach out to Bill Planek.

# # # # #

See next week's RAZZ for a list of the awards our club and club members received at the Annual Awards Banquet. We are holding off reporting those since a few folks have not yet been given their awards, and we want to surprise them.

# # # # #

People are STILL throwing their garbage out car windows. Lots and LOTS of garbage!" Mark your calendars for **THIS WEEKEND July 9<sup>th</sup>,**

**from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.** Interact is sponsoring the next Fullerton Woods [River Grove] clean-up of this 2022 season. It's a **GREAT** way to take a walk in the woods. **To sign up, let Lesley know.** We could really use the help.

**Fullerton Woods [River Grove] clean-up sponsored by The Greater OP - RF - FP**

**Interact Club**

Water will be provided







**From: Amy Hopkins**

To: Mom Now-PDG Jane Jo[kins]

It's a brand-new Rotary year, under the RI leadership of the first woman to hold the role, Jennifer Jones, and our district governor Ade Onayemi. I am excited to lead Chicago Lakeview Rotary Club alongside Mike Theodore once again.

With all that, today I am incredibly proud. This



incredible woman just completed her year as our district governor. She led our corner of the Rotary world with grace and determination for 365 days. In that time, she kicked off initiatives, launched traditional events in new ways, and truly served to change lives. From a massive turkey giveaway, to building beds, to uniting 15 districts to collect \$400,000 in grants to support medical and emergency needs in Ukraine, she did it.

I could never have dreamed of a better mom, mentor, role model, or friend than Jane Hopkins. I love you mom, you did it!!!! [Now go enjoy your cake!]

# # # # #

**Congratulations**

**Jennifer Jones**

RI President 2022-23

**Jennifer Jones Day**

**27th June**

**The Hon. Mayor of City of Windsor, Canada**

declared June 27 as "Jennifer Jones day".

**Proud Moments..**

**From DG Ade Onayemi**

Fellow Rotarians, welcome to the New Rotary Year!

Congratulations to all the club presidents and officers for 2022-2023.

Rotarians give their precious time and treasures in the spirit of service above self. We make time for what we feel is essential in our lives as we strive to 'do good things in the world.' So, we come together in fellowship as leaders, changemakers, and people of action to effect positive life changes through humanitarian service.

No other civic organization in the world has the capacity of scale that Rotary brings to any initiative. As a result, we have no problems finding partners for our humanitarian work. Our ability to collaborate and effect change through global grants and the Rotary Foundation is unmatched. *"When the world needs us, we step in supported by the Rotary Foundation."* - John Hewko.

As we start the year, we ask clubs to review and incorporate Rotary International's strategic plan, known as The Rotary Action Plan, when shaping club priorities and goals. The four fundamental objectives of the **ACTION PLAN** are as follows.

1. Increase our impact
2. Expand our reach
3. Enhance participant engagement (improve the involvement of participants)
4. Increase our ability to adapt.

The plan *"builds on our past success and sets the future direction to ensure that we continue to grow, unite people and make a lasting impact."* Clubs' goals should be aligned accordingly. This is an opportunity to engage your members in discussion and visioning.

The Action Plan framework will guide our work with **onboarding Rotaract, engaging our youth and the next generation, show-casing Rotary and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion).**

#### **Onboarding Rotaract**

On July 1, we welcome the expansion of Rotary membership to include Rotaract clubs. Rotaract's elevated status was approved by Rotary's Council on Legislation in 2019 as part of an ongoing effort to make Rotary more appealing and welcoming to young professionals. The district board took the initiative to establish a director position for Rotaract last year. Additionally, Rotaractors will be included in all aspects and activities of the district.

#### **Engaging youth and the next generation**



The future of Rotary lies in our clubs, where we must adapt to the changing reality of the present. Our challenge as an organization is to bring on the next generation of Rotarians. We must share the gift of membership with those who share our values. We must intentionally include Interactors and their families in service projects and Rotary activities. All clubs should seek opportunities to collaborate on projects with a Rotaract club. Clubs should include Interactors, faculty advisors, and families in their activities. Rotary youth programs include Interact, Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE), Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), New Generations Service Exchange, Rotary Peace Fellowships, and Rotary Community Corps. Rotary has invested heavily in these programs for many years. Yet, we don't retain an appreciative number of alumni from these programs as Rotarians. It is incumbent on every Rotary club to find an avenue to engage the next generation.



## Rotary Showcase

Club presidents have set goals and priorities for the year that we expect them to share with members. During the President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS), presidents-elect were tasked with working to achieve **The Rotary Citation**. This award recognizes the challenging work that clubs do throughout the year. There are twenty-five available goals that you can review online at the MyRotary website. Clubs should select at least thirteen goals to apply toward citation achievement.

We must grow more to do more. In other parts of the world, Rotary is growing but not so much in the United States. Despite the array of initiatives, global grants, and community service, we struggle with membership in our district. We can change the trend and grow membership by telling our compelling stories and highlighting our projects. The theme for our 2023 District Conference will be '**A Showcase of Rotary**.' On **May 6, 2023**, each Rotary, Rotaract, Interact, and Earlyact club, along with invited partners, will highlight their activities in an exposition format.

## 2022-2023 RI President Jones' Initiative: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

In her message, RI President Jennifer Jones states, "In Rotary, we celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)." She notes that "DEI is not just a recommended practice. It is necessary to Rotary's success in providing meaningful leadership, networking, and service opportunities today and in the future." With an intentional focus on DEI, we can celebrate each person's contributions, advance equity, and create an inclusive culture where everyone knows they are valued.

President Jones reports that with input from its DEI Task Force, Rotary International has strengthened its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. **Her charge for the 2022-2023 year is for 'all of us - as individuals, in our clubs, in our district - to exemplify our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.'** We can do this by learning more, raising awareness, and understanding about DEI. Then, we should determine how using the principles help grow and strengthen our club and act on DEI in our clubs and communities.

In February 2022, the District DEI Committee was tasked to develop an initiative to start collecting demographic information from members to better help measure our clubs' diversity. With the approval of the district board, the committee's Survey Task Force worked with Justice Informed, a professional group, to create a survey. Every member of our district will be asked to participate in completing the survey that will serve as a baseline for the district. Since the survey is being conducted by an independent organization, we are assured of complete confidentiality. I strongly urge you and your club members to complete the survey promptly. Thank you.

I look forward to a year of fun and Rotary service, as we all 'Imagine Rotary.' A Rotary that is intentional in embracing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) well beyond the next century. In the words of Paul Harris, our founder, '**If Rotary is to realize its proper destiny, it must be evolutionary at all times, revolutionary on occasions.**'

I wish you Aládfia [peace and good health].

# # # # #

## From Immediate PDG Jane Hopkins

Dear Fellow Members of Rotary District 6450,

It was a true pleasure to serve as the District Governor in the Birthplace of Rotary and I believe we, once again, rose to the challenges over the past year to make the world a bit better at home and around the globe. I would like to say goodbye as we close the 2021-2022 Rotary year with a review of some highlights of this past year...

## District Assembly

After so long behind Zoom screens, we were eager to hold our District Assembly in person once again. However, as has happened many times, the pandemic tested our flexibility, and we met the challenge by offering a hybrid assembly. Members engaged in sessions on vocational service, mediation, Rotary Means Business, DEI, foundation, membership, and public image. Thank you to all the facilitators who managed both audiences and to participants for bringing questions and insights to each session.

## Kick-off of Polio Plus Society

The finish line to the eradication of polio keeps getting closer and closer, but that means we need to ensure Rotary's efforts continue in strength to make this disease a

thing of the past. Led by Mary Dankowski of Chicago Heights-Park Forest and DGN Rachel Ossyra, our district launched our own Polio Plus Society. Members of this society have pledged to donate \$100 or more each year until polio is eradicated. Charter members of this society also received a limited-edition pin designed by Manon Crowley of Naperville Downtown. There are still charter membership slots available; I encourage you to sign up through our district website!

### DEI Survey

Over the past several months, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee's Survey Task Force has worked with Justice Informed to create a survey to get a true baseline of the diversity of our district. This survey will show us how we reflect the communities we serve and how we can grow in diverse and inclusive membership and experiences across our clubs and our district. You will soon receive a link to the survey, and we ask that each District 6450 member take the time to complete it. All responses will remain anonymous, and the district will not have access to the raw data. Please encourage your fellow club members to complete this, assist those who may need help accessing, and let us know if you have any questions.

### Success of New District Initiatives

Embracing this year's Rotary theme of Serve to Change Lives, several new initiatives were launched this year:

- **District Literacy Committee:** Coming off the success of PDG Chuck's Early Childhood Education initiatives last year, Bolingbrook Rotarian Jennie Mills stepped up as our first District Literacy Chair. Jennie and her committee have advised and supported several club projects, are developing a literacy project handbook, and led a successful service project to provide books to children in areas of need.

- **District Service Project Committee:** Joliet Rotarian Michelle Balog fully embraced RI President Shekar Mehta's theme, as well as the charge to Empower Girls. Michelle led a blanket making project at the district conference to provide for women and children in shelters. She also did a fantastic job coordinating a district wide event with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, where members from across the district joined together to build beds for children who do not have their own bed at home. Through Michelle's leadership on the project, so many more children have a bed - a place in the world to call their own.

- **Mental Health Task Force:** Mental health was a concern prior to the pandemic, and since 2020 has come to the forefront of an area of need that can be often overlooked, misunderstood, and stigmatized. Led by Naperville After Dark Rotarian, Dr. Lisa Pinto, a team of mental health professionals within our district have come together to brainstorm, strategize, and support how and where our district can be of service to those needing mental health

care - as well as normalizing these supports. This team has held successful roundtables, Q&A sessions, and has served as advisors to several clubs. Orland Park Rotarian Melanie Jones led a powerful session on the topic during the district conference. In addition, Little Village Rotarian Pam Brockman has led workshops on meditation and breathing to give our members some training, experience, and exposure to the critical area of self-care and mindfulness.

### Paul & Jean Harris Home Progress

Through the tireless efforts of many of our own district members, the Paul & Jean Harris Home is being returned to its full glory! The living spaces are furnished with pieces from the era when Paul and Jean were in residence, numerous meetings and events have been held in the house, and our own district has an office in the basement! Tours of the home have been given not just to our district members, but to international visitors as well, and I know the PJHH Foundation Board is thrilled with the progress. The district board has donated another sum of money to continue the restoration process as we are proud to have this as a jewel of the Birthplace District. Thank you to all those who serve on the PJHH Board, and I encourage anyone who hasn't visited the home recently to find time to see the wonderful work that has been done.

### Virtual RYLA

While many of us hoped this year would be one closer to the "normal" we knew before, we have excelled in flexibility and innovation. While our district RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) committee hoped to re-introduce in person elements of this weekend of leadership development for high school students, COVID variants had other plans. After our first ever virtual RYLA in 2021, the team was able to build on that success to host a virtual event once again in March of 2022. Students from across the district, nominated by sponsoring clubs, worked together to explore leadership qualities, discover international connections, and build a campaign of kindness that each student could take back and implement in their own communities. While these young leaders were accessing remotely, it was incredible to hear about the connections and teams they were able to build across the distance.

### One Day District Conference

We were so excited to bring the district conference back to an in-person event this year! Because we have all missed the in-person fellowship and hands-on service over the last two years, Mary Dougherty and her conference committee planned a day centered around these ideas. Members from all points of the district engaged in a variety of service projects throughout the day, engaged in games and scavenger hunts, listened to impactful and inspiring speakers, and reconnected face to face. The impact of the day rippled throughout the community through the cards written to nursing home residents, the books organized for children, the blankets assembled for those in need, the



amenity kits for homeless individuals, and by planting trees that will stand for years in Hinsdale. Ina Pinkney shared her story of polio survival, Dion Dawson recounted fighting food insecurity in Chicago through Dion's Chicago Dream, Pam Brockman led a breathing workshop, and Melanie Jones spoke on supporting mental health initiatives in our clubs. Laughter and smiles were shared (in new District t-shirts and sweatshirts!) over Bozo buckets, scavenger hunt antics, and a pig roast to end the evening (along with thunderstorms!). Thank you to all who attended, including the many future Rotarian generations who tagged along to serve with their parents!

### **District Foundation Dinner**

It was wonderful to host a District Foundation Dinner once again with incredible attendance from clubs and members. District Foundation Chair Rachel Ossyra and her team put together a beautiful evening to celebrate all the good done in the world through District 6450's work with The Rotary Foundation. It was a joy to also acknowledge and honor individual members for their work and contributions over the past year. Attendees were touched by stories of assistance to initiatives in Ukraine and India, and inspired by Phenom and Emcee Skool, whose work we have supported through global grants. Thank you to all who contribute to The Rotary Foundation every year - you are truly helping to Serve to Change Lives.

### **Turkey Giveaway**

In November, our district partnered with the Black Village Foundation and the Chicago Bears to give away turkeys and all the fixings of a full Thanksgiving meal to over 1000 families in and around the Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago. Over 35 Rotarians joined other volunteers to distribute the food and connect with residents at this high energy event. Thanks to incoming Rotary International Director and our own Past District Governor Pat Merryweather-Arges for making the connection for us to serve in this event.

### **Disaster Response**

Just over a year ago, an EF3 tornado hit in the southwest portion of our district, and Woodridge Rotarians immediately answered the call. Just as this was happening, Aurora Sunrise Rotarian Chris Olson was forming the first district Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to provide services and support to areas impacted by natural disasters. The team thought their first project might be something international or along the coasts with hurricanes, but they jumped into action in our own backyard. Woodridge Rotary raised incredible funds to support community members impacted by the tornado.

### **Supporting Ukraine**

As the war began in Ukraine this February, our members jumped to action as soon as possible. Very quickly and with the assistance of Marga Hewko and Pat

Merryweather-Arges, we were able to bring 15 other Rotary districts in partnership for \$400,000 in disaster grants from The Rotary Foundation to support buying medical and other emergency supplies for Ukraine. Chris Olson and Pat Merryweather-Arges set up collection points for medical supplies and other donations of goods. Working with UMANA, hundreds of tons of supplies were able to be shipped either into Ukraine or close enough to be transported into the country. Rotarians met the supplies when they were received and were able to transport them to areas of need. The response to this has been incredible, from members here in 6450 sorting boxes to go out, to financial donations from clubs - with special recognition and thanks to the Rotary Club of Chicagoland Lithuanians and PDG debi Ross.

### **Pollinator Pledge**

Led by Environmental Chair Manon Crowley, our district has done incredible work in increasing awareness of pollinator needs and constructing pollinator gardens in our communities. Clubs have embraced this initiative, especially with the partnership of the National Park Service. This summer, the efforts will continue to be highlighted as a Monarch Train from Canada to Mexico stops in our district.

### **New District Newsletter**

Under the guidance of Hinsdale Rotarian Tom Norton, our district has a new informative district newsletter which is published twice a month. This has been a great way to get club and district news out to all members. Thank you, Tom!

### **2030 Convention**

Traditionally, Chicago has hosted the Rotary International Convention every 25 years. We have been invited to bid on hosting the 2030 convention right here in the Birthplace District. As this is a large undertaking, we have partnered with neighboring districts 6420 to the west and 6440 to the north in presenting the bid. The committee has been working diligently along with Choose Chicago to present a bid package to RI by the end of July.

Everything we have accomplished would not have been possible without all our district leadership involved. PDG Jane gave thanks to District Board Members and Board Leadership as well as the District Administration Team.

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all our district members and leaders, old and new, that have stepped up to make this year an outstanding year of Serving to Change Lives.

Yours in Rotary Service,

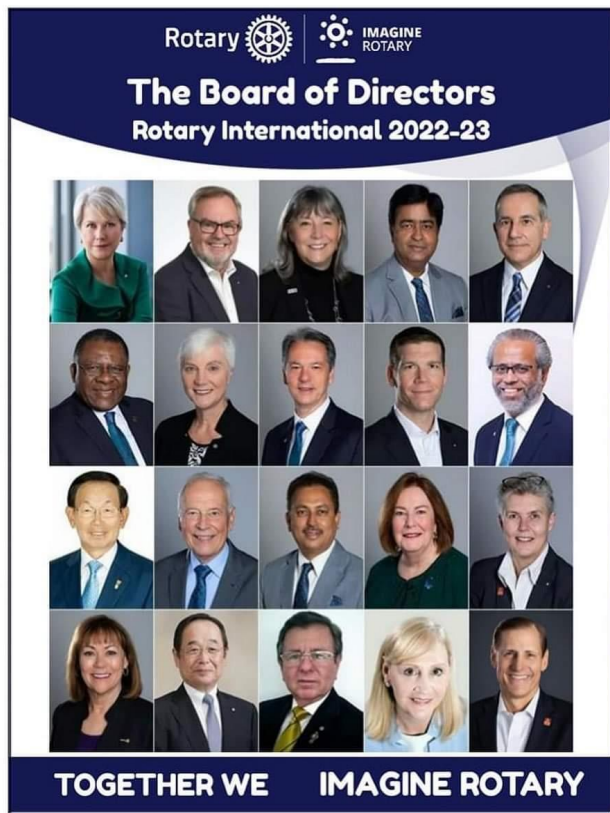
PDG Jane Hopkins

Rotary International District 6450 Governor 2021-22

# # # # #

### From RI Director Pat Merryweather-Arges

Excited to be selected to serve on the Board of Directors of Rotary International, an organization that embodies all that is good in the world. The 1.4 million world-wide Rotary members use their time, talent, professional experience, and resources to change lives locally and globally. As Rotary members change lives, they also change and enhance their own life.



As a Rotary volunteer, I have traveled to over a dozen low and middle-income countries working side by side with communities on healthcare, water, and peace projects. In all my experiences, I have found that all of us have more in common than what divides us. We all want what is best for our children, loved ones, and communities in terms of health, education, employment, food, good governance, environment, housing, non-violence, and peace.

During this Rotary Year we have the wonderful opportunity to serve under our first woman President, Jennifer Jones, as we Imagine Rotary.

Rotary is a great organization that has a motto of "Service Above Self" and with its Rotary Foundation, "Doing Good in the World." For more information on how you can be involved in Rotary, send me a message, or go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

# # # # #



LOVE, LOVE, LOVE those purple tennis shoes!!



Shena & family will be home soon!!! We've ALL enjoyed your trip!!







# ONE DAY CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

Bernie's Book Bank is proud to partner with the Rotary Club of Oak Park - River Forest and Interact Club of Greater Oak Park – River Forest – Forest Park Area for a One Day Book Drive. Please bring your gently used children's books to donate to under-served Chicagoland children.

**Wednesday, July 20, 2022**

**10:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

**First United Church of Oak Park  
848 Lake St., Oak Park, IL (lower level parking lot)**

We can accept children's books for birth through 6th grade reading levels.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept adult, young adult, religious, over loved (torn/marked/yellowed), reference or activity books. Please help us reduce our handling and exposure by keeping these books at home. Thank you!

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