



## LETTER FROM GOVERNOR STEVE

I am always amazed at how much we do for our communities and the world through Rotary. This edition of the newsletter will make you feel the same way if you do not already feel that way. We especially are emphasizing the community service work of the Springfield clubs herein and they are a tremendous example of Service Above Self. Thanks to Susan Haralson, District Governor Nominee Designate and Assistant Governor in that area, for submitting the information.

January is Vocational Service Month. This concept of vocational service sets us apart from other service organizations and is the very essence of Rotary. Rotary calls on its members to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions, recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations, and dignify each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society. Put these ideals into action by using your professional skills to serve your community, practicing your profession with integrity, and guiding others in their professional development.

I hope you have a wonderful New Year and I look forward to reporting even more of your accomplishments in 2016. Please continue to be a Gift to the World.

Sincerely your in Rotary,

Steve Dulle

## SPRINGFIELD AREA RECENT COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

### ROCK'N RIBS BBQ FESTIVAL

It was another successful year for the annual Rock'n Ribs BBQ Festival as area Rotary Clubs distributed \$182,000 to seven children's agencies in the Ozarks. This year's proceeds bring the total to \$1,582,000 distributed by Rotary's Rock'n Ribs to children's charities in the Springfield area since its inception in 2000.

Charities receiving grants were Big Brothers Big Sisters, Ronald McDonald House Tooth Truck, Ozarks Regional YMCA, Good Samaritan Boys Ranch, Great Circle, Boy Scouts of America- Ozark Trails Council and Harmony House.

Rock'n Ribs BBQ Festival is presented by the five Rotary Clubs and the Rotaract Club of Springfield. Over 1,000 Rotarians and community volunteers worked on the event. Rock'n Ribs is a Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned event and this year 72 BBQ cooking teams competed for blue ribbon bragging rights. The Rotary Rock'n Ribs BBQ Festival has become one of the most popular charity events in the area, and one of the most anticipated. Mark your calendar for this year's event on April 22-23.

The **Springfield Downtown Rotary Club** was chartered in 1919 and Paul Harris was among the list of honored guests that day. One of the many projects they have completed this year was a winter coat and clothing drive to benefit Great Circle whose goal is to address mental health issues

in children as soon as possible.

**Springfield Southeast Rotary Club** is the largest club in District 6080 of 49 clubs, with over 230 members. This club was chartered in 1969. This club recently purchased, at a cost of \$25,000, equipment for the picnic area in K Park, located at Jordan Valley Park in Springfield. K Park has been a long term commitment for the club since 2005. Since that year, the club has installed “K Man”, an interactive statue, a climbing rock feature and the Springfield Wagon, which is an interactive play feature. To date, the club has invested over \$100,000 in the children’s play park.



*Springfield Southeast has contributed over \$100K to K Park in Springfield*

The Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast had several projects and events this Fall which included the club establishing the Oktoberfest Golf Tournament in October where over \$10,000 was raised for the Don’t Meth with Us Program and the Community Grants Committee. The Don’t Meth with Us committee and volunteers made approximately 40 presentations in Southwest Missouri in October to 5th grade students regarding the dangers of use of Methamphetamine.



*Springfield Southeast Oktoberfest golf tournament participants*

**Springfield Metro**, although only about five years old, is a true example of Service above Self. This club contributes nearly \$500 per member to the Rotary Foundation while the average per member for district 6080 is around \$125 last year. They also perform around 25 service activities annually. They raised \$6,000 through a District Simplified Grant to buy 150 comfort kits for the Victim Center for use in assisting sexual assault victims. The kits are presented to sexual abuse victims and include clothing as their normal clothes are confiscated for forensic evidence.

“The Rotary Club of Springfield Metro is so happy to complete such a worthwhile service project for such a deserving organization, The Victim Center,” says club president Andrea Brady. “We believe in our motto of Service above Self, and work to service communities through projects not only in our local communities, but in our national and international communities as well.”



*Springfield Metro Club and their comfort kits*

**Springfield North Rotary Club** is moving ahead smoothly this year with Mel Davis at the helm. They are currently working on a project for Safe to Sleep. This is a temporary overnight shelter for women who need a safe place to sleep. They also used their ingenuity to buy drones for a local elementary school with their District grant monies.

**Springfield Sunrise Rotary Club** has supported the Ashley House which provides residential treatment for abused and neglected teenage girls. The goal is to build relationships with the residents and be a positive influence in their lives. One form of support is workdays that include the residents, Rotarians and their families, and Interactors from Springfield Catholic Rotary Interact. The workday on November 14 had 190 hours of service from 55 participants and the residents. Volunteers cleaned windows, gave cooking lessons to the residents, painted rooms, raked leaves, trimmed trees, and did general yard cleanup while making new friends and taking time to build relationships and have fun. Once a month Sunrise Rotarians sit around the table with these girls, eat cookies and have some very candid conversations. They also fill their backpacks with needed items to start off their school year right.



Springfield Sunrise and Interactors work at Ashley House



Nixa Rotarians and Nixa High School Interactors

**Ozark Rotary Club** is making a difference in their community. They regularly have fundraisers for Care to Learn, Least of These and other non-profits. This club started a new program called Fifth Wednesday Auction in 2015. On this meeting day club members will donate new or used items for sale in a fundraising auction. Items can be from their business, new or used, even garage sale and/or "white elephant" type items. Amounts raised to date were used to purchase fleece throws for senior citizens living in local nursing homes and Christmas presents for children in two needy families.

Ozark Rotary had a Dodge Ball Tournament this past summer to raise money for Least of These. They presented the check to the local Executive, Susan Kendrick.



Ozark Rotary Club presents check to Least of these

**Nixa Rotary Club** is smaller in size, but mighty in what they do for their local community. The Interact Club that they sponsor at Nixa High School, continues to grow. They are currently at approx. 60 students, who meet every other week. Some students meet in the morning and some in the afternoon. Nixa Interactors just adopted some families to buy Christmas presents for, so their families would have a much brighter Christmas. Nixa Rotaracters also held a banquet this past fall to install new officers.

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## RYLA

Every year, the Missouri Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Academy helps sophomores and juniors in high school identify and enhance their leadership skills through a 4 day, 3 night curriculum. The program inspires them to practice "Service Above Self" and exposes them to other Rotarian values. Participants experience life changing experiences at the Academy as these testimonies illustrate:

"RYLA truly helped me hone in my desires to serve others and I'm feeling more motivated than ever to serve my friends and family, school, community, and the world!"

"Missouri RYLA changed my life!! I can't wait to get home and start making a difference."

We are excited to announce that starting this year, each club will have opportunity to sponsor more than 1 students. Therefore, please begin to consider your nominations for 2016 and be a part of developing the next generation of Servant Leaders. Cost is \$450 per student and, as in the past, it will be held in Fulton, MO at William Woods University. RYLA will be held from June 26th to June 29th this year and the deadline for applying is March 15, 2016. For more information please contact Peter Lai at [peterlai2@gmail.com](mailto:peterlai2@gmail.com).

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## THIRD QUARTER DISTRICT WIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT FOCUS

During the third quarter our focus is on literacy. Some ideas for club projects include making books available to local preschool children, the library, churches, or public schools. Help with local library/literacy projects, or provide reading sessions for children. These are just some of the many ideas shared by our clubs! Remember to take pictures and send to the district public relations chair Mary Ann Beahon to promote your local impact. Partnering with other clubs, Rotaract, governmental agencies, etc. will help you achieve Presidential Citation goals, so look bigger and bolder as

you plan your literacy projects this quarter! Having 75% of club members participate is another achievement that helps meet the Presidential Citation for your club.

## THANKSGIVING BANQUET IN COLUMBIA

On November 24th, the 10th Annual All Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving Luncheon was held by the hosting club for this year, Rotaract of Columbia. This event is an annual reminder that our Rotary family is a true blessing worth giving thanks for. Approximately 200 Rotarians were in attendance.



*Columbia Rotaractors Nadege Uwase, Jolyn Sattizahn, Corbin Umstadd (the turkey) and Danielle Harrison at the Thanksgiving Banquet*

Funds raised benefited the various Interact Clubs in Columbia and Welcome Home, a local nonprofit supporting veterans to reduce homelessness. A live auction was held and Terry Roberts (Columbia South) provided information regarding Welcome Home and its need for expansion of facilities and services to meet the needs of local veterans.

## COLUMBIA SOUTH

For more than five years, the Columbia South Rotary Club has committed to volunteer at the Schnucks grocery store location in Columbia, Missouri every Saturday of the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. South Rotarians and their family members averaged at least two ringers on duty every one of the six Saturdays and one Friday of the 2015 campaign, amassing more than 140 volunteer hours worked. Rotary South kettles yielded about \$4,000 this season, averaging over \$568 per day of ringing. That's a lot of pennies, nickels, and dollar bills! For at least the past three seasons, South Rotary has been among the top money-raising civic clubs in Columbia. Columbia South Rotary puts into practice "Service Above Self" in support of the Salvation Army in central Missouri.



*Columbia South Rotarians Keith Groshong, Bill Kollars and Peggy Kirkpatrick raise funds ringing bells for Salvation Army*

## CNBC RANKS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION IN ITS TOP FIVE CHARITIES

CNBC, one of the leading consumer and business news media outlets in the U.S., named its top 10 charities in the world, ranking The Rotary Foundation No. 5. Charities were chosen for changing the world while maintaining excellent financial standards. The article highlighted Rotary's tremendous work in eradicating polio. The Rotary Foundation works to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace. Rotary's 34,000 clubs across the globe develop and carry out sustainable humanitarian projects and provide scholarships and professional training.

## MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Mountain View Rotary club donated toys, clothes and food gift cards to a needy local family of six. In addition, a meal was bought to for them for their Christmas celebration.

## BOLIVAR

Bolivar Rotary Club presented Ed Kurtz with the Bolivar Rotarian of the Year award for 2015 during the club's annual Christmas party Dec. 17. Pat Douglas, Bolivar Rotary Club president, said that "His fingerprints are on literally everything the club has done for a good number of years". "He participates and supports all club activities with a positive and enthusiastic spirit. He inspires others. He walks the talk of the Four-Way Test. Every day. He is always excited, happy to help. He makes everything enjoyable. He is a great example of service above self."

Also, Bill Roberts Jr. received special recognition from the Bolivar Rotary Club for 60 years of service to the club and community. Roberts is the longest active member of the club and has had exemplary attendance and participation

## BRANSON DAYBREAKERS

Del Leath, Commander of Veterans City Chapter 68 of the Disabled American Veterans received a check from Curtis Fudge, President of the Branson Daybreakers Rotary Club for \$1,675. This money is to be used toward the purchase of a van to transport local veterans to VA hospitals in Fayetteville and Little Rock, and to help support homeless and needy veterans. The Branson Daybreakers received a matching Rotary District Grant which made this donation possible.



Curtis Fudge of Branson Daybreakers presenting check to Del Leath of the Disabled American Veterans



Bolivar Rotarian of the Year Ed Kurtz

during his 60 years of membership and service."His dedication to the club over the years is nothing short of amazing," said Pat Douglas, Bolivar Rotary Club president when presenting the award. According to his wife, Carolyn, "Rotary has always been an important part of his life, right behind his commitments to God, his family and Chevrolet."



60 Years of Service Award for Bill Roberts of the Bolivar Rotary Club

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