



Dear Rotary Friends,

March invites us into a season of renewal.

As winter begins to loosen its grip and we start catching glimpses of sunshine-filled days ahead, I can't help but think about fresh starts — new growth, new energy and new opportunities to make a difference.

This month, [Rotary International](#) focuses on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene — something so simple, yet so life-changing.

For many of us, clean water is as routine as turning on a faucet. But around the world, access to safe water and proper sanitation determines whether children can attend school, whether families stay healthy and whether communities can truly thrive. Water is dignity. It is opportunity. It is hope.

And that brings me back to what I always believe:

Kindness Matters.

Access to clean water is one of the most tangible forms of kindness we can offer. It says, “Your health matters. Your future matters.”

Do Good Things.

When Rotary invests in wells, sanitation systems and hygiene education, we are not just funding projects — we are restoring potential and empowering communities to sustain themselves for generations.

You Get What You Give.

There is something powerful about the ripple effect of water. One act of service creates another. One well supports an entire village. One commitment inspires another. The good we put into the world flows outward — and often returns to us in unexpected ways.

As we move toward spring, I'm reminded that growth requires nourishment. Just as rain prepares the soil for blooming flowers, our service prepares communities to flourish.

May this month be a reminder that even the most basic needs can become the most meaningful opportunities for impact.

Let's continue to be people who bring refreshment, renewal and hope wherever we serve.

With gratitude for each of you and the good you do,

Andrea Brady, Rotarian
2025-2026 District Governor
District 6080
Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise

Send your news items and photos to District Secretary Mary Ann Beahon at beahon.rotary@gmail.com

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



Rotary Leadership Training Set for March 20-21

More than 300 Rotary Presidents-Elect, Nominees and Assistant Governors from across Missouri will gather for the 48th Annual Show Me Rotary Leadership Training March 20-21 at the Wyndham Executive Center in Columbia.

For over 40 years, Show Me Rotary Leadership Institute has been one of Rotary's first and premier events dedicated to preparing and inspiring incoming club leadership. By uniting experienced Rotary leaders with incoming club officers, the seminar fosters knowledge sharing, equips attendees with crucial leadership skills, and helps clubs build more impactful community service projects.

Keynote Speakers and Highlights

- Friday, March 20 (Morning): Jason Browne, (TEDx /Keynote Speaker, Public Figure, Social Media Tinkerer & more), "Artificial Intelligence"
- Friday, March 20 (Lunch): John Smarge, (Past RI Director 2010-12), "Things You Won't Learn in Breakouts"
- Friday, March 20 (Dinner): Brian Hall, Rotary International Director, Zones 30-31
- Saturday, March 21 (Morning): Elizabeth Mahoney, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator
- Saturday, March 21 (Lunch): Rotary Youth Programs



Speakers, left to right:
Jason Browne, John Smarge, Brian Hall and Elizabeth Mahoney

A premier training experience, Show Me Rotary Leadership Institute, hosted by Districts 6040, 6060 and 6080, has become one of the largest multi-district leadership events in the U.S. Offering dynamic speakers, informative workshops, and invaluable networking opportunities, the seminar aims to:

- Equip incoming club officers with practical strategies to lead effectively in their communities.
- Share insights from successful Rotary clubs to foster growth, service impact and member engagement.
- Highlight the life-changing work of The Rotary Foundation and how it empowers clubs worldwide.
- Emphasize the importance of Rotary in local and global communities.

The registration fee for Presidents-elect and Nominees has already been billed to your club. You simply need to fill out the online registration form and make hotel reservations. Once you are registered, you will be able to come back and click on the Modify My Registration button to make changes, if needed. If you have questions, please contact [Michael Brady](mailto:mbrady@helpgivehope.org) at mbrady@helpgivehope.org.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: [h8 ps://dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77834218](https://dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77834218)

Hotel Reservations

The hotel has SOLD OUT on Friday Night. We suggest you try the Baymont by Wyndham Columbia, MO or Drury Inn & Suites Columbia Stadium Boulevard

[CLICK HERE FOR HOTEL RESERVATION](#) at the Baymont

[CLICK HERE FOR HOTEL RESERVATION](#) at the Drury Inn

The 8 in 8 Membership Challenge

Zones 30 & 31 | Challenge Runs March 1 – April 30



This February, Rotary clubs across **Zones 30 and 31** are invited to begin planning for the **8 in 8 Membership Challenge**, a focused, achievable effort to strengthen clubs through intentional growth.

Beginning **March 1**, clubs will have **8 weeks to add 8 new members**. Early planning starts now.

The Challenge

- **Goal:** Add **8 new members in 8 weeks**
- **Timeline:** March 1 through April 30
- **Eligibility:** Any Rotary or Rotaract Club in Zones 30 & 31

There's no complicated scoring or comparison by club size. Meet the goal, and you're in.

The Incentive

Clubs that successfully add **8 new members during the challenge period** will be entered into a drawing for **\$1,000** to host a **member social event in May or June**. The social event must include **members bringing guests**, reinforcing Rotary's culture of invitation and fellowship.

Tools, Support, and Early Preparation

To help clubs prepare for success, **membership tools and resources** will be released ahead of and throughout the challenge.

Clubs are also encouraged to **enroll early in the Club Refresh Program**, supported by the **North American Club Creation Team**, to begin:

- Strengthening club culture and relevance
- Exploring flexible and modern club models
- Improving member engagement and retention
- Laying the groundwork for sustainable growth

Early participation in Club Refresh will help clubs enter the March 1 challenge with a clear plan and shared momentum.

Why 8 in 8?

Eight new members will:

- Bring fresh energy and perspectives
- Share leadership and service responsibilities
- Expand community reach and impact
- Strengthen long-term club sustainability

Eight weeks provides a clear, focused window to build momentum and try new approaches.

What's Next

Districts are encouraged to share this announcement widely with clubs and begin identifying interested Rotary and Rotaract Clubs. Additional details, tools, and enrollment information will be shared in February.

*Plan in February
Grow in March and April
Celebrate in May and June*

8 Ways to Introduce 8 People to Rotary

Club Playbook for the 8 in 8 Membership Challenge

Zones 30 & 31 | March 1 – April 30

How to Use This Playbook

This is not a script and it's not a sales guide. This playbook is designed to help clubs **experiment** during the 8 in 8 Membership Challenge by offering multiple, low-pressure ways to introduce people to Rotary. Clubs are encouraged to:

- Choose **2–3 ideas** to try during the 8-week challenge
- Match ideas to your club's personality and capacity

The goal is simple: create welcoming moments where people can experience Rotary culture, relationships, and impact.

The Coffee Invitation

What it looks like: Members invite a colleague or friend to attend a morning meeting or informal Rotary gathering... *"coffee on us!"*

How to try it:

- Print or handwrite simple "Coffee's on me" cards
- Pair guests with a member host
- Skip formalities; focus on conversation

Best for: Morning clubs, professionals, first-time guests

The Member Social Night

What it looks like: A casual, non-meeting gathering where every member is encouraged to bring one guest.

Ideas to try:

- Backyard firepit or potluck
- Trivia night or game night
- Dessert-only social

Tip: No Rotary speeches. Let relationships do the work.

The Service-First Invite

What it looks like: Invite potential members to participate in a service activity before ever attending a meeting.

Examples:

- Operation Full Plate partners or volunteers
- Local nonprofit collaborators
- Parents, teachers, or community advocates

Why it works: People often join *after* they experience purpose.

The Gratitude Gathering

What it looks like: Host a thank-you coffee, lunch, or happy hour for people who already support your club's work.

Invitees might include:

- Volunteers (Reconnect with Operation Full Plate volunteers!)
- Speakers
- Community partners

Frame it as: Appreciation, not recruitment.

The One-to-One Rotary Conversation

What it looks like: A member invites someone to coffee or lunch just to talk about community, service, and connection.

Conversation starters:

- “What kind of community work actually energizes you?”
- “Have you ever wanted to volunteer but didn’t know where to plug in?”

No ask required. Curiosity is enough.

The Program-Based Invitation

What it looks like: Invite a guest specifically because they’ll enjoy or benefit from a particular speaker or topic.

Examples include:

- Local issues
- Professional development
- Youth, education, or workforce topics

Tip: Match the program to the person—not the other way around.

The Bring-a-Collaborator Meeting

What it looks like: Members invite people they already work alongside in the community.

Think:

- Nonprofit staff
- Business collaborators
- Educators
- Civic partners

Why it works: Shared work often leads to shared values.

The “Just Come See” Invitation

What it looks like: A simple, honest invite with no pressure.

Try this language: “We’re trying some new things at Rotary for the next 8 weeks. Want to come see what we’re about?”

Remember: Sometimes the simplest invitation is the most powerful.

A Final Note

Not every invitation will turn into a new member. And that’s okay. The purpose of the 8 in 8 challenge is momentum, creativity, and connection. Focus on **welcoming well**, learning what resonates, and building relationships that last beyond April 30. Engage your entire membership in the effort. If we believe in the benefit and impact of Rotary, it just makes good sense to share it with the world. Share your story. Share your members’ stories.

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Grow in March and April.
Celebrate in May and June.*

Rotary Clubs Participate in Various Service Projects



News Tribune photo: Matt Tolksdorf holds the shelf's beam in place while Dan Sauer prepares to secure it in place using a mallet Feb. 21 at the Salvation Army Food Distribution Center in Jefferson City.

Jefferson City Breakfast Rotary members gathered at The Salvation Army of Jefferson City Feb. 21 to assemble 14 heavy-duty, four-tier shelving units—strengthening the infrastructure of the community’s food pantry.

This effort was made possible through the Rotary District 6080 Simplified Grant for 2025-26. In addition to the shelving units, the grant helped fund a commercial refrigerator, a commercial freezer, and two fold-down wall tables—significantly enhancing the pantry’s storage capacity, food safety and operational efficiency.

The Salvation Army of Jefferson City has long been a vital resource for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, serving approximately 160 families each month. Over time, the pantry’s furnishings had endured considerable wear and tear, and expanded refrigeration had become a critical need. These improvements will help ensure the organization can continue meeting growing demand while providing safe, organized, and dignified service to those in need.



Above: Past President Kent Trimble writes a note. Right: Grace Schnieders stuffs valentines for residents of Primrose Retirement Home.



Jefferson City West Rotary members sent Valentine’s cards to residents at Primrose Retirement Home. During a weekly meeting they took a few moments to add personal notes, kind words and well wishes to the cards. Grace Schnieders delivered the cards to residents as a reminder that their community is thinking of them this season. It’s a small tradition the club looks forward to each year and a reminder that even brief moments of kindness can brighten someone’s day.

Butler Rotary packed 130 Valentine’s Day gift bags for local nursing homes. The goodie bags included treats, stickers, cards and bracelets for residents.



The Rotary Club of Springfield helped feed the community by volunteering at CrossLines food pantry on Feb. 11.

Branson-Hollister Rotary members volunteered at House of Hope one Saturday morning, unpacking and organizing to help out a great local organization.



Fulton Rotarians and Interactors served dinner at the Callaway Senior Center Feb. 21. The club also purchased food and kitchen equipment for the center with its District Grant.



Two Rotary Clubs Collaborate for International Service



Two Fulton Rotary Clubs — one in New York, and the other in Missouri — joined forces to fund an important water project in Northern Tanzania. Building on other Rotary projects from these two clubs, they supported a water-catchment system at the new Loiborsiret Secondary School dormitory, built by Humanity for Children for 100 young women, most of whom were

sleeping on the floor or doubling/tripling up with friends in a much smaller dormitory. Now, all the young women have their own beds.

The water system will deliver clean water to the girls' showers, toilets and washing sinks. The graywater from the sinks and showers will be recycled into a new school garden and tree nursery, a project coordinated by Fulton (MO) Rotarian, Andy Branson.



To ask about getting involved with future projects in Tanzania, contact Fulton Rotarian Bob Hansen at bobhansenwc@gmail.com.

Rotarians Invited to Participate in Service in Columbia

Sleep in Heavenly Peace will host a Rotary Friends & Family-Sponsored Bed Build in Columbia on Saturday, March 7, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Thanks to the generosity of the Columbia Rotary Foundation and additional support from several local Rotary clubs, Rotary is sponsoring the lumber for this build.

The service project will take place on the south parking lot of Community United Methodist Church, 3301 W. Broadway, Columbia.



"Because of your support, we will be building 10 extra beds, totaling 45 beds, for children in Columbia who are currently sleeping on the floor," Kelley Upham, president of Sleep in Heavenly Peace-Columbia, said. "Over the past two years, we have delivered 365 beds — and at the moment, we are completely out, with 120 kids on the wait list. The need is real, and your partnership is making a direct difference."

Upham, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Columbia, added, "We would love to see Rotarians, along with their friends and family, come together for a morning of hands-on service. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us live out 'Service Above Self' in such a tangible way."

Here is the link to sign up: <https://x.gldn.io/e/fJXeerc5Eob> and here is the website: <https://shpbeds.org/chapter/mo-columbia/>. For more information, contact Kelley at Kelley.upham@shpbeds.org or by cell at (573) 356-6807.



Impact Rotary (Columbia) Sorts Glasses for Honduras



IMPACT Rotary (Columbia) sorted more than 2,000 donated prescription glasses that will be sent to Honduras, helping provide clearer vision to individuals who might otherwise be forced to give up their livelihoods. Roughly 20 members and volunteers gathered at the home

of Impact Rotary President Neil Riley Feb. 14 to help sort the glasses donated by various eye care providers. Jeff Jones, a practicing optometrist and member of Impact Rotary, led the effort, helping fellow members tell what strength glasses were to enable them to organize them.



After the work was done, they celebrated Mardi Gras-style with a delicious meal of gumbo, jambalaya and maque choux. "Our social gatherings are always special — not only because of the service we accomplish together, but because they give us the opportunity to truly connect, build friendships, and get to know one another on a deeper level," Jill Renee Sanders, recording secretary, said.

Rotary & Rotaract Clubs Raise Funds, Give Donations



Butler Rotary raised \$400 in free-will donations during its annual Chili and Ham & Bean Supper Feb. 10. The money raised from this event goes towards scholarships the club gives out each year. Last year the club gave out three \$1,000 scholarships to local students.

Lake Ozark Daybreak Rotary's 30th Annual Daybreak Rotary Gala is March 28 at Lodge of Four Seasons, starting at 5:30 p.m. This year's theme is Luck of the Lake. Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating 30 years of community, friendship and giving back. Enjoy dinner, entertainment and exciting auctions — all while supporting great local causes.



Michelle Casey receives a check from Columbia Co-Presidents Rachel Augustine and Walt Lantzy.

The Rotary Club of Columbia presented a \$1,000 check to the Central Missouri Humane Society, which is raising funds to build a new animal shelter.

Questions about the gala? Contact Jennifer at 573-480-6012 or Brad at 573-256-5922.

William Woods University Rotaract's third annual Teddy Bear Toss was a huge success. Through collaboration with the Super Sam Foundation: Fighting Childhood Cancer and thanks to the generosity of donors and participants, over 100 bears are being donated to children receiving treatment.



On the Road with Rotary Clubs for Education & Fun



Club members and guests play a video game at the Jefferson City Boys & Girls Club.

Jefferson City West Rotary enjoyed a tour of the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson City and an update on how much they have grown and how their sites support kids after school.

The club isn't about babysitting, it's setting aside time for dinner, homework help, positive action and mini clubs that let kids explore things like art, sports and culinary activities.

Rotarians also heard about their summer program and how they work with schools and families to support students where they are.

Thanks to Rotarian John Schaefferkoetter, who works as their development director, for facilitating the visit.



Jefferson City West Rotarians learn about the Jefferson City Boys & Girls Club during a recent visit.

Springfield Sunrise

Rotarians (right) enjoyed their night at Maxon Galentine's Party.

Springfield Sunrise Rotary (far right) also held a Wine and Whiskey Social at Retro Metro.



Columbia South Rotary held its weekly meeting at Trail Stop Brewery. Members always enjoy the opportunity to get out and see various businesses and organizations in Columbia.

Other Rotary News For & About Clubs in District 6080

New satellite club in Lebanon



Lebanon Rotary marked an historic milestone on Feb. 5, when the Rotary Satellite Club was officially launched after years of planning and hard work. With a packed open house at Boat Town Brewing, eight individuals were formally welcomed as the founding members of the new Satellite Club: Roger Moore, Trisha Nail, Jaret Scharnhorst, Cade Schmitz, Aidan Heifner, Sara Johnson, Dawn Martin and Dawn Moore. The Satellite Club meets twice a month in the

evening, creating new opportunities for community members to be involved in Rotary when traditional daytime meetings don't work. These members have already been hard at work through service projects, recruiting, and outreach leading up to this historic night. Congratulations, and welcome to the Rotary family.

Program Opportunity

Are you looking for a timely, engaging speaker to energize your weekly meeting? Rotary clubs are invited to host a presentation from [American Promise](#), a nonprofit organization that engages with trusted civic spaces like Rotary clubs—one of the few remaining places where Americans regularly come together to learn, discuss and engage across differences.



As our nation approaches America's 250th birthday, it's an ideal moment to reflect on how our constitutional system works and how citizens can responsibly engage to ensure it continues to serve the common good. American Promise offers a compelling presentation that refreshes audiences on the fundamentals of the U.S. Constitution, explores the importance of civic participation and explains their nationwide effort to advance a proposed 28th Amendment returning election spending authority to Congress and the states.

This opportunity aligns naturally with Rotary International's theme, Unite for Good. American Promise brings together Americans from across the political spectrum—Republicans, Democrats and Independents—around shared democratic values. Their work is explicitly nonpartisan and focused on solutions, not ideology.

While Rotarians do not bring politics into their clubs, they do bring the spirit of Rotary into civic life. For those committed to "Service Above Self," this presentation connects civic health to lasting peace. A representative, accountable democracy provides the stable foundation needed to amplify Rotary's impact locally and globally.

If your club is seeking a meaningful, thought-provoking program that sparks discussion and unity, this is an excellent option. To learn more or schedule a speaker for your club, click [here](#) or email Saira Blair at sairab@americanpromise.net.