



Dear Rotary Family,

July marks the beginning of a new Rotary year, and I am honored and humbled to serve as your District Governor for 2026-27.

As we begin this journey together, I find myself reflecting on what Rotary has meant to me over the years. Like many of you, I joined Rotary expecting opportunities to serve. What I discovered was much more. I found friendships, mentors, leadership opportunities, and a chance to be part of something larger than myself.

Across District 6080, more than 2,300 Rotarians in 49 clubs are making a difference every day. Some of that work happens quietly and close to home—supporting local schools, feeding families, mentoring youth, and strengthening our communities. Other efforts reach around the globe through clean water projects, literacy programs, peace initiatives, and our continued commitment to ending polio forever.

No matter the size of the project, the true measure of Rotary is not what we do in the moment, but the impact that remains long after the project is complete. That is why Rotary International President Yinka Babalola has challenged us this year to Create Lasting Impact. For me, that theme comes down to three simple ideas:

Build Relationships

Rotary begins with people. Strong clubs are built on friendships, trust, and meaningful connections. Whether welcoming a new member, mentoring a future leader, or strengthening partnerships within our communities, relationships are the foundation of everything we accomplish. This year, I encourage every Rotarian to intentionally build new connections and strengthen existing ones. The future of Rotary depends on it.

Change Lives

Service Above Self is more than our motto—it is our purpose. Every project, fundraiser, grant, and volunteer effort represents an opportunity to improve someone's life. We may never fully know the impact of a scholarship awarded, a family assisted, a student encouraged, or a child vaccinated, but Rotary's influence extends far beyond what we can see. When Rotarians come together, lives change.

Leave a Legacy

The greatest gift we can give Rotary is to leave it stronger than we found it. That means developing future leaders. It means growing our membership. It means supporting The Rotary Foundation. It means creating clubs that future generations will be proud to join. Legacy is not about recognition. It is about ensuring that the good we do today continues long into the future.

As I travel throughout District 6080 this year, I look forward to learning from each club, celebrating your accomplishments, and sharing ideas that help us grow stronger together. Every club has its own unique personality and strengths, but we are united by a common purpose: making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Amy and I are excited to begin this journey with you. Thank you for your dedication to Rotary, your communities, and the countless people whose lives are better because of your service. Together, let us build relationships, change lives, and leave a legacy.

Together, let us Create Lasting Impact.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Brad Martens
District Governor 2026-27
Rotary District 6080

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



Brad Martens Installed as District Governor of 6080

The installation of Brad Martens as District Governor for 6080 for 2026-26 took place June 25 at the Country Club of Missouri in Columbia, along with the installation of officers and directors of his home club, Columbia South Rotary. Brad is the third member of the Rotary Club of Columbia South to serve as District Governor of 6080. Others were Raymond Plue, who served in 2010-11, and Steve Dulle, who served in 2015-16.



Remarks from Outgoing District Governor - Andrea Brady, District Governor of 6080 for 2025-26, speaks about her year.



Charge to the Governor - Past District Governor Joe Beltz, representing District 6080 Rotarians, charges Brad Martens to discharge the duties of District Governor for 2026-27.



Presentation of District Governor Pin - Immediate Past District Governor Andrea Brady presents the District Governor pin to Brad Martens.



Presentation of District Governor-Elect Pin - District Governor Brad Martens presents the District Governor-elect pin to Will Cologna of the Springfield Sunrise Rotary Club, who will serve as District Governor in 2027-28.



Presentation of District Governor Flame - Andrea Brady presents the Ceremonial Flame to Brad Martens.



District Governor Remarks - Brad Martens addresses Rotarians and guests.



District Governors with Ceremonial Flame - the Rotary District Governor line with the Ceremonial Flame. Left to right: Andrea Brady (2025-26), Rowland Geddie (2024-25), Jimmy Standfast (2023-24), John Horton (2022-23), Brad Martens (2026-27), Joan Kramer (2021-22), Paul Reinert (2019-20) and Joe Beltz (2007-08 and 2014-15).

An Interview with District 6080 Governor Brad Martens

The Year Ahead: District Governor-Elect Brad Martens on Inspiration, Impact, and What He's Decided Not to Do

By Sean Spence, a member of the Rotary Club of Columbia

Brad Martens was driving to Tennessee when we talked. He had a full schedule of phone meetings lined up for the road, which tells you something about him right there. When you work 65 to 70 hours a week, have teenage boys at home, three grandkids, and you have been named district governor-elect of Rotary District 6080, you do not let a six-hour drive go to waste.

Martens, a longtime member of Columbia South Rotary in Columbia, Missouri, is the kind of person who joined the organization because he wanted to expand his network, stayed because of the people, and then found himself standing in a Ugandan village watching kids run out of a classroom to hug his legs — and realized he never wanted to stop.



Brad Martens in Uganda



Malaria Fight Project in Uganda

That trip to Uganda changed things for him. The global grant project, done in partnership with Be The Change Volunteers out of Columbia, brought a water sanitation system and menstrual hygiene supplies to a school in a community called Kyotera. Martens drove the Masaka Highway — widely considered one of the world's most dangerous roads — dodged semi-trucks and pedestrians in the dark, and watched military checkpoints up close. And when it was over, he came home with a question he could not shake: why don't more Rotarians get to feel this?

"Whenever I saw the impact that that made," he said, "I'm kind of like, you know what? I wish more people could feel this part of Rotary."

That feeling is what eventually led him to say yes to district governor.

He will begin his year with a theme borrowed from Rotary International President Yinka Babalola of Nigeria: Create Lasting Impact. Martens isn't just adopting it as a slogan. He means it structurally — succession planning, member engagement beyond the club level, and making sure that whatever gets built this year has legs after he is gone.



Uganda

One of the things he has already decided he will not do? Follow the Rotary curriculum the way it is traditionally delivered.

"I don't want to go and talk to the clubs about action plans," he said. "I want to go and talk to the club about where they are, what they're currently doing. To where you're accomplishing the curriculum, accomplishing the action plan — but you're not saying the action plan."

He described the standard approach as feeling, in his words, a little dirty — like a business presentation dropped into a room full of volunteers. His alternative is to show up as a facilitator, not a supervisor. To listen first. To ask what clubs want to accomplish and why they joined in the first place.

If that sounds simple, ask any past district governor about the club that rescheduled their visit because the high school athletic director was coming that week. The job is full of those moments.

The person Martens has leaned on most is Raymond Plue, his longtime mentor from Columbia South, who now lives at The Neighborhoods care facility and is dealing with his health. Martens has visited him a lot. They talk Rotary. They talk about what Raymond would do differently. And Raymond, every time, says some version of the same thing: this is your year. Go be Brad.

Raymond also never lets him forget the Rotary Foundation. “Without it,” Raymond tells him, “Rotary doesn’t exist.” Martens became a major donor this year — not because he had to, but because he finally understood what the money actually does. Uganda. Peru, where he and his son Hunter traveled with Be The Change to install solar panels in a school being built along the Amazon River. His son, at 12 or 13 years old, sat at a small table with local kids and read them books. Later, young men who had been working alongside him hand-carved a wooden machete and gave it to him. Hunter came running across a field to show his dad.



Brad Martens in Peru

“That was really special,” Martens said, and you could hear it.

For future district governors reading this: he says the hardest part of the job is not the travel schedule or the 20-plus clubs that meet on Wednesday at noon. It is responsiveness. Getting clubs to tell you who their officers are. Getting emails answered. It sounds small until you are trying to build a year-long calendar around people who are not picking up the phone.

His advice for what to do on day one? Take a deep breath. Let the club presidents have their first few weeks. Do not rush in.

And his one-word description of how he feels right now?

Inspired.

That tracks.

Editor's Note: Sean Spence, a member of the Rotary Club of Columbia, is a Columbia event producer, writer, community advocate and podcaster. One of his current projects is to interview current and past District Governors from all over the country. He has completed 10 and has another five to six interviews scheduled (five states, so far). For the foreseeable future, his goal is to publish at least once each week, probably increasing. Soon, he plans to add articles that pull from multiple interviews, like “Best DG Lesson” and “Favorite Foundation Projects.” When asked why he is doing this, he replied, “I just thought it would be fun for me and valuable to Rotary. It is so fun!”



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Taipei Hosts 2026 Rotary International Convention

The Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, June 14-17 attracted more than 38,000 people from 140 countries and regions, making it one of Rotary's largest conventions in recent years. The convention featured impressive speakers, led by Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate and a leading advocate for girls' education.

The House of Friendship featured more than 200 exhibits from Rotary and Rotaract clubs, districts, and vendors around the world. A highlight was the Taipei Village, sponsored by the Host Organization Committee, which recreated a section of Taipei's historic old town. Visitors immersed themselves in Taiwanese culture through Chinese calligraphy, tea ceremonies, Indigenous traditions, and other participatory experiences.



Rotary Clubs in 6080 Provide a Variety of Services



Rotary Club of Republic (RepMo Rotary) celebrated its first birthday with a Day of Service on June 13. A total of 166 volunteers completed 17 projects throughout the community. Volunteers directly served an estimated 850 residents through food assistance, youth

sports support, landscaping, animal welfare, and neighborhood improvement efforts.

The completed projects are expected to benefit thousands more residents throughout the coming year through improvements to parks, schools, trails, public facilities, and community organizations. Plus, thanks to sponsors, the club was able to donate nearly \$3,000 to local worthy causes.



Springfield Metro Rotary participated in the American Heart Association's Heartwalk June 6.

Jefferson City West Rotary took part in this year's Relay For Life of Cole County, held June 5 on the grounds of the Missouri Capitol.

The club hosted a tent where kids could play a cup-toss game, win prizes and enjoy balloon animals. It was a fun way to support a serious cause, and thanks to everyone who stopped by, played, donated or helped, they raised around \$200 for the American Cancer Society.



Springfield Southeast Rotary presented annual Vocational Awards to three individuals who have gone above and beyond in service to the Springfield and Southwest Missouri communities.

Each honoree's story stood on its own as a remarkable example of what that commitment looks like in practice.

This year's honorees are: Deputy Caleb Cunningham, Greene County Sheriff's Office; Trooper Jackson Hood, Missouri State Highway Patrol, and Tyler Nevins - Fire Equipment Operator, Springfield Fire Department.

Columbia Rotary Club members volunteered at Lunch in the Park, which provides lunch during the summer for kids under 18.



Springfield SE Rotary Provides School for Tanzania

Springfield Southeast Rotary donated \$20,000 of excess reserves to a charity called Humanity for Children (HFC) to construct a primary school classroom in the village of Oltepeleki in Tanzania. It is a village of the Maasai people, who live primarily in remote areas of Tanzania and Kenya.

Fulton Rotarian Bob Hansen is the president of HFC and has been promoting projects in Tanzania for nearly 20 years.



The old school

The school was built so young children in kindergarten and the first grade don't have to walk 7 miles to the nearest school. There are no school buses, cars, or even roads in these areas.

Many children were skipping these early grades because it was too dangerous for them to walk by themselves and the parents couldn't walk to the school and back twice a day.



School sponsored by the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast



Springfield Southeast Rotarians Carl Hutchinson, Randy Mayes, David Compere and Anne Brown



David Compere, Carl Hutchinson and Randy Mayes in traditional Maasai attire.

Four Springfield Southeast Rotarians (David Compere, Randy Mayes, Carl Hutchinson and Anne Brown) and three spouses visited Tanzania for two weeks in June to dedicate the new school.

They were joined by Jefferson City Evening Rotarian Hayle Lafountain. Fulton Rotarian Bob Hansen co-led the team with Kathryn Morgan, executive director of Humanity for Children.

During their visit, they also toured several other HFC projects and visited local villages, gaining a firsthand look at the lasting impact these efforts are making in the community.



Springfield Southeast Rotarians with spouses, Humanity for Children staff and Bob Hansen (far right)

If your club would like to sponsor a project in Tanzania or collaborate with another club on a project, contact Bob Hansen for more information at bobhansenwc@gmail.com.

Donations of any amount can be combined to make an impact!

Donations From Rotary Clubs Support Communities



Gary Moreau, Mobility Worldwide executive director, and Charlotte Marsch, Bolivar Rotary president



Bolivar High School Interact members decorated the cart for the Hearts for Carts event July 12 in Columbia.

Bolivar Rotary purchased a Mobility Worldwide cart that will be on display at the "Hearts for Carts" event at the MU Health Care Pavilion in Columbia July 12, along with other decorated carts.

Mobility Worldwide is a global volunteer-run affiliate that brings mobility access to those in developing countries who are unable to walk. The organization builds, distributes, and teaches others how to use hand-powered Mobility Carts and other aids. Bolivar High School Interact members decorated the cart, which will be distributed internationally after the July event.

Bolivar Rotary also provided funding to Friends of the Polk County Library, the Polk County Junior Livestock Show and Polk County Christian School to continue their important work. Through partnerships like these — and many more — the Rotary Club remains committed to strengthening Polk County and investing in the people and programs that make it thrive.



Belton-Raymore Rotary (left) presented a \$2,000 donation to the Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation. President Jodie accepted the check on behalf of the foundation along with RPPSF board members Michelle Houston, Eric Collins, Matt Davidson and Andrea Cox.

Jefferson City Breakfast Rotary (right) gave donations to Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson City, all beneficiaries of this year's Spring BBQ Fundraiser.



Springfield Rotary makes an annual donation selected by the club president. This year, a \$500 donation went to Weaver Elementary School to help grow their library collection because every child deserves the chance to discover a favorite story, explore a new idea, or find themselves reflected in the pages of a book.

Great Fundraisers Enable More Rotary Club Donations



Lake Ozark Noon Rotary had one of the most successful golf tournaments in its history with over \$30,000 raised for charity. The Greg Gagnon Memorial tournament took place May 8 at The Oaks Golf Course at Margaritaville Lake Resort. The event was sold out with 144 golfers who played through some rain, though it turned out to be a beautiful day. This year, the record-breaking total was \$30,341 from sponsorships, players, games, and the silent auction. These proceeds go into the Rotary club's charitable giving account, which helps local charities and provides scholarships for Osage and Eldon students.

Power of Four (Camdenton, Lake Ozark Daybreak, Lake Ozark Noon and Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotary) held its second annual Sporting Clay fundraiser June 20 at Missouri Trapshooters Association (MTA) in Linn Creek. The Power of Four Rotary clubs collectively support over 30 charities in the Lake area.



Buffalo Rotary held its fourth annual Dollars 4 Scholars Golf Scramble on June 6 at Dream Valley Golf Course. Members of Interact helped out.

Springfield Rotary Presidents Give Advice to Rotaract

Springfield's Rotary Club presidents gathered with the area's emerging leaders, members of Springfield Rotaract, to share conversation, valuable advice and a passion for service. During the Springfield Presidents Panel, Rotary leaders discussed what makes each Rotary club unique and helped Rotaractors explore opportunities to stay involved as they transition into the next phase of their professional and service journeys.

Springfield Rotaract also hosted a membership drive in partnership with Rotary clubs across Springfield. Rotaract membership continues to grow because Rotarians invite young professionals in their networks to get involved and discover what Rotaract is all about. When the challenge was issued, Springfield Sunrise answered the call. Congratulations to Springfield Sunrise Rotary for bringing the most guests and taking home this year's traveling trophy. Thanks for helping connect the next generation of leaders to Service Above Self.



Rotary presidents and presidents-elect: Eric Atkinson, Springfield; Jessica Harmison-Olson, Springfield Sunrise; Jeff Cumley, Springfield Southeast; Lisa Sims, Springfield Metro; Allen Kunkel, Springfield North; and Christopher Obert, Rotaract

Rotary Fellowship - On the Road and at Club Socials



Columbia Metro Rotary toured the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City.



Springfield Southeast Rotary enjoyed the 2026 Art Hains Annual Dive Bar Tour on June 6, hitting four of Springfield's finest: Where House Bar, Gunny's Mill, Sidewinders and Moon City Pub. Rotarians gathered first for lunch at Steak N Shake before boarding the bus. The weather cooperated beautifully, and the Southeast Revelers made the most of it—an afternoon of good company and great dives.



Springfield Sunrise Rotarians represented the club June 25 at SGForum, hosted by The Network for Springfield's Young Professionals.



Springfield Metro Rotary held its annual Pickleball Night on June 23. Some played pickleball, and the rest were super social around the table.

2nd Annual Marshfield Rotary Club Golf Tournament August 1st at 9 am Whispering Oaks Golf Course

Call The clubhouse at 417 859 4470

Registration at 8 am and tee off at 9am. Early registration is encouraged to ensure a place in this tournament.

- ⇒ 2 person scramble format
- ⇒ Long drive contest
- ⇒ Closest to the pins contest on four par threes.
- ⇒ \$10k hole in one contest on hole 18
- ⇒ Mulligans available \$20 for two per team
- ⇒ Casino hole on hole 10. \$5 per roll
- ⇒ Cash payouts 3 flights and 3 places... depending on turnout.
- ⇒ Raffles prizes available
- ⇒ Lunch will be provided
- ⇒ Tiger drive \$20 per team
- ⇒ Cost: \$100/person or \$200/team.

⇒ Sponsorship options.

- ⇒ \$100 for sign on hole
- ⇒ \$275 for sign on hole and a team entry into the tournament.
- ⇒ \$500 for scorecard sponsor and a team entry
- ⇒ \$1000 Tournament sponsor banner and special recognition and team entry



A portion of the proceeds benefit Rotary Park and the Rotary Scholarship Program

Players:

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Sponsor Information

Name _____

Sponsorship type _____

Sponsor contact information _____