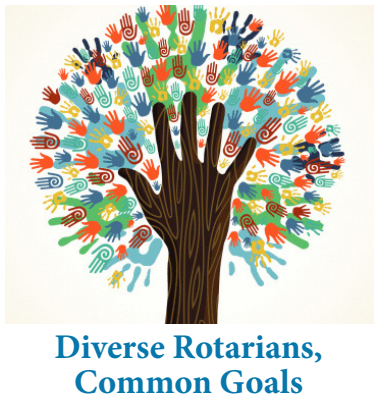




**ROTARY
DISTRICT
6490
JUNE 2016**



On the inside...

A District 6490 sticker is on a school classroom wall in Guatemala. Does anyone know the story behind this project?

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The Vandalia High School Interact Club made a double presentation at a recent Vandalia Rotary meeting. Club members told Rotarians about the fund-raising projects they have held for Rotary's polio effort. Then, club officers presented a check.

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Several Rotary clubs in the Mattoon-Charleston area raised more than \$15,000 at the annual Rotary Comedy Night recently. The event funds heart scans for high school sophomore athletes in East-Central Illinois.

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The C-U Illini After 5 Rotary Club received a District Grant to continue the David Jones Persuasive Speaking Contest at Parkland College. Hannah King was the winner, providing \$500 to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank/

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2016-17 District Governor Kevin Yonce and Bill Warmoth of Charleston were among the D6490 Rotarians at the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea, earlier this month.

Installation of 2016-2017 district officers is June 12

All Rotarians and guests are invited to the installation of the District 6490 2016-17 leaders.

Installation will be Sunday, June 12, for District Governor Kevin Yonce, District Governor-Elect Larry Howell, District Governor Nominee Arlene Penne, club presidents, assistant governors and District officers.

The installation will be at Hawthorn Suites Hotel, 101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Welcome is at 11 a.m. and buffet lunch at 11:15 a.m.

At 12:15 p.m., the program and instal-

The monthly District 6490 newsletter will have a "new" editor, starting in July. Bill Wills of Bloomington will return from a two-year hiatus to take over as newsletter editor again.

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lation begins. The festivities should close by about 1:15 p.m.

For more information, contact Installation co-chairs Anita Broeren (anitab@broeren-russo.com or Jane Solon (jane@atkinsgroup.com).

From the desk of Surinder Sethi

2015-16 has been a 'fantastic year' to serve as governor

The Rotary year 2015-2016 is drawing to a close, only 3 weeks left. This has been a fantastic year for me and it was a great honor to serve as your District Governor.

Narinder and I had the opportunity to make many new Rotarian friends as we visited the clubs in our district. We were received with a warm welcome and were made to feel special everywhere -- Thank you!

Clearly, we gained appreciation and understanding of the great work you are doing and learned more about your club. All of us can stand proud of our achievements this year as Rotarians in District 6490! Narinder wrote a poem on the impression we received from our visit to clubs which was published in the December 2015 newsletter and shared at the District Conference.

Our theme of this year, "Be a Gift to the World," has provided many ways for us as Rotarians to focus on our special gifts. We are blessed with many gifts such as, resources, talents, compassion, expertise and knowledge to improve lives in our local and global communities.

As our RI President Ravi stated, "Through Rotary, we can take these our gifts and make a genuine difference in the lives of others and in our world." And



Surinder and Narinder Sethi

you all made a difference in the lives of many! As a Rotarian, You are "A Gift to the World" through your contribution to your Rotary club and district.

Clubs undertook great projects -- both locally and globally. Many of you made great efforts to bring in new members and encourage them to join you in your club projects. It is important we continue to "Grow" our Rotary Clubs. You set contribution goals for the Foundation and Polio Plus and supported your targets. And we can celebrate that the end to Polio is "this close."

To all the presidents for the Rotary Year 2015-2016, "Be a Gift to the World," that is where the rubber meets the road in having an impact. Your efforts changed lives and maybe lives that you do not even know. What a Gift to the World. It has been my pleasure to work with you and I say "Many Thanks" for serving your Rotary Club and for taking on that

leadership role.

To the Assistant Governors - I could not have completed this year without your assistance and support. You play an important role in the workings of our District. "Thank you!" District Committees and District Officers, my sincere gratitude for your unselfish dedication to make our district even better.

And to all District Rotarians: It is through your dedicated work and commitment to Rotary that makes our District successful. Thank you -- Job well done!

And finally to my wife, Narinder. I could not have done it without her support in the good times and more especially in the rough times.

And so with endings - there is always new beginnings. The cycle of Rotary repeats itself and July 1 represents a new Rotary year.

The District leadership torch will be passed along to Kevin Yonce, incoming District Governor for 2016-2017. Narinder and I wish Kevin and all the incoming District Team a successful Rotary year as they prepare for "Rotary Serving Humanity."

To all District Rotarians - Narinder and I wish you a happy and safe summer! We wish you all much success in the upcoming Rotary year!

Thank you for all you do for Rotary.

Yours in Rotary,

Surinder Sethi,

Governor, District 6490

"Diverse Rotarians, Common goals"

It's the final month to meet the district PolioPlus goal

*Fred Heilich
PolioPlus Chair*

We are at the end of May 2016 with just one more month left in our 2015-16 Rotary year. We as a district have contributed \$29,994 to PolioPlus Year-To-Date. This is 75 percent of our \$40,000 goal. For the past two years we have exceeded our annual goal. We still have time to get there.

The May RI PolioPlus report was an eye-opener for me. This is the first year of my three-year stint as the District PolioPlus Chair that our District has not contributed to the PolioPlus fund. Also, of the 52 District 6490 clubs 42.5 percent

Wild Polio Virus	2016	2015 YTD	2015 Total
Global	16	25	74
Endemic	16	25	74
Non-Endemic	0	0	0
Afghanistan	5	2	20
Pakistan	11	23	54

have not yet made a contribution either as a club or by individual club members. We are so close to conquering this dreaded disease that we can't ease up now. The RI stated goal is to have polio eradicated worldwide by 2018. We still have time to meet our annual goal of \$40,000.

On the global front, the World Health

Ministers are convening in Geneva, Switzerland, and will review the latest polio data. Canada has contributed \$19.9 million to support Nigeria's polio eradication efforts. From April 17 to May 1, 155 countries and territories participated in the trivalent to bivalent oral polio vaccine switch to protect against the Type 2 polio.

Bill Wills is returning as D6490 newsletter editor

My name is Bill Wills.

My phone number is (309) 825-3541.

My email is Billphyl@aol.com .

Those are the 3 things I hope you remember because I will be bugging you again for the next 12 months for information about your clubs.

I will be the district newsletter editor – for the third time – succeeding Bill Lair, who is unable to continue his great job for the past two years because of technical reasons related to computer software. I'm not crazy about following a professional journalist and loyal Rotarian such as Bill Lair, but as is often said: "Somebody's gotta do it!"

I was editor for PDGs Dick Wagner, Ron Schettler, Ray Ropp, Gordon Bidner and Larry Pennie.

I guess you could say I have a hard time keeping a "job" since I retired from



Bill Wills

The Pantagraph daily newspaper in Bloomington nearly 10 years ago after 43-plus years in the newsroom.

I enjoy sharing information about Rotary. How many times do we hear: "What is Rotary?" I

believe the answer lies within our clubs. We provide service without expecting recognition.

Therefore, the "outside world" – and probably a few new Rotarians in our district -- know little about what we do in Rotary. Sharing of information is needed at the club and district levels through the

monthly newsletter and local media. Feel free to use me as resource on how to get more from your local media. I will also make sure important district news gets to the media in our district.

So, I beg you, let me know what your clubs are doing, such as your community service projects and fundraisers. I would prefer that you write about your club (write it as if you are telling a friend what happened) but I can pull information together for a story.

Input from all clubs determines the value of a district newsletter. Pictures, preferably in a jpg format, are encouraged.

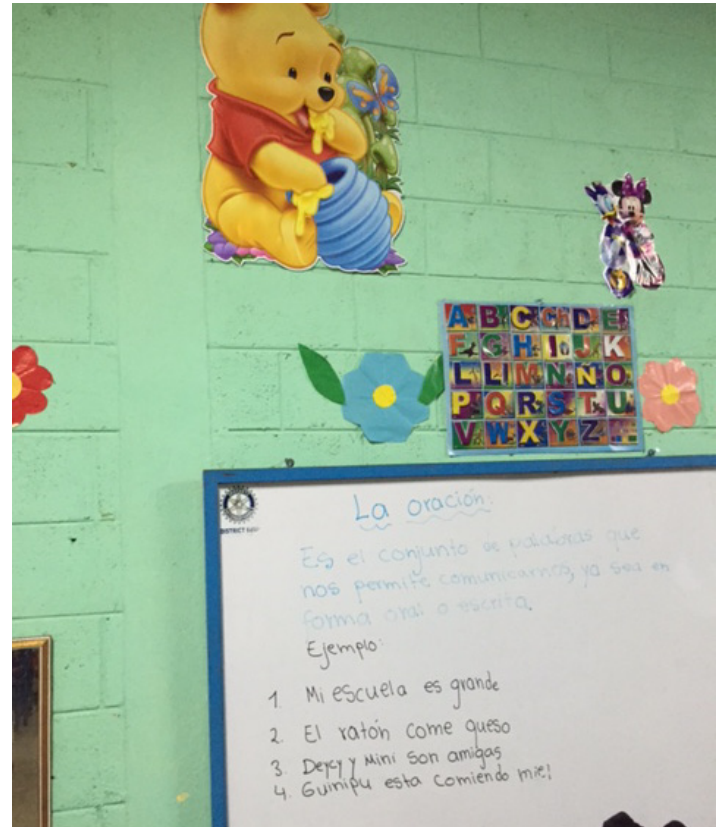
Please make sure I am on your club's newsletter email list, too.

Mark your calendars for the first day of each month. That will continue to be the monthly deadline.



Rotarians, Interactors clean U.S. 40

Four Rotarians and 15 Marshall High School Interact Club students helped out with a recent cleanup project along U.S. Highway 40 west of Marshall



The D6490 sticker is in a Guatemala school classroom, but does anyone remember the project?

D6490 project lives on in Guatemalan school

Who knows the story behind the two photos?

Doug Bosworth, secretary of the Rotary Club of Mahomet, has a couple photos that involve Rotarians of D6490. Bosworth's granddaughter, Sarah Firmani, is a pharmacy student at Butler University and was active in Interact when she was at Zionsville, Ind., High School.

Earlier in May she was on a medical mission strip to Guatemala. Their headquarters were in a school in Xaebaj. She noted the Rotary symbol on a school bulletin board and took the accompanying photos. She did not know that I am a Rotarian in District 6490.

It would be interesting to know what club(s) in D6490 were involved with this

project and information on what the project involved. Anyway, the benefits of that project are still there in Guatemala today.

If anyone knows the story behind the D6490 sign on the board, please notify Bill Lair at billcheryllair@gmail.com and he will provide the answers in a future district newsletter.



Interact officers present a check to Vandalia Rotary President Ben Timmerman for the polio effort.

Interact makes 2 presentations

Vandalia Interact officers made a power point presentation at the Vandalia Rotary on April 12, about their activities to raise money to fight polio.

Interact had several money raising activities in and outside of school. Their efforts raised a total of \$300 which they presented to the Rotary Club of Vandalia President Ben Timmermann at the meeting. The funds will go directly to Rotary International for polio eradication efforts.

Vandalia Interact is sponsored by Lori Meseke and Gena Nance. Lyn Gartke is the liaison between Rotary and the Interact Club.

Memorial Roll at 14 in 2015-16

Fourteen Rotarians in District 6490 died during the past year, since the 2015 District Conference.

Those 14 were recognized in the Memorial Service led by David Hofer. They include:

- Moreland Herrin, Urbana Rotary, July 6, 2015
- Ralph H. Dude, Normal, July 24, 2015
- Oliver Kermit "Doc" Zivney, Dwight, July 30, 2015
- Paul Augustus Adams, Atlanta, Aug. 20, 2015
- Walter M. "Wally" Downs, Pana, Sept. 4, 2015
- Robert D. Webb, Mattoon, Oct. 5, 2015
- John D. "Bud" Sills, Effingham Noon, Oct. 23, 2015
- Bill T. Ridgeway, Charleston, Nov. 7, 2015
- James R. Geekie, Paris, Dec. 15, 2015
- Jack E.L. Cowgill, Gibson City, Jan. 1, 2016
- Bill Cornman, Litchfield, no date available
- OK Donham, Litchfield, no date available
- Haywood Talley, Litchfield, no date available
- Dan Moran, Pontiac, no date available



Four clubs work together to provide athletes' heart scans

Rotary clubs in the Mattoon-Charleston area raised more than \$15,000 at their annual Rotary Comedy Night in late March, according to Gary Swearingen of the Mattoon Rotary Club.

The funds are used to pay for heart scans of high school sophomore athletes in the area. Twice each year, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center does heart scans of high school sophomores to be sure

each student is heart-healthy enough for interscholastic sports.

Rotary clubs in Charleston, Mattoon, Arcola and Tuscola have sponsored this project for more than 20 years.

The Chicago Comedy All-Stars, shown here with Swearingen, provide the entertainment. Comedy Night is held at Eastern Illinois University's Doudna Fine Arts Center.

C-U Illini hosts speech contest

Dr. George H. Johnston
C-U Illini After 5

Hannah King won the 13th Annual David Jones Persuasive Speaking Contest at Parkland College, which was held with the assistance of the C-U Illini After 5 Rotary Club.

King spoke to persuade the audience to adopt the Eastern Illinois Foodbank as the charity of the evening. A grant from Rotary District 6490 to the C-U Illini After 5 Rotary Club helped sponsor the event this year. King won \$500 for the Foodbank and \$500 for herself.

The David Jones Persuasive Speech Contest honors long-time former department chair, Dr. David Jones. Any student who has completed a COM course at Parkland College is eligible to participate. Students are required to pick a 501(c) (3) charity, research it and prepare a 5- to 7-minute speech seeking to persuade the

audience to adopt that charity.

Students are assigned to groups of 5-7 for a preliminary round. Preliminary rounds are judged by current speech faculty, two judges per group and no judge may evaluate a current or former student of their own class. The top one or two are selected out of each group to go on to a final round. Final round judges are selected from members of the community who have extensive experience in hearing charity appeals.

C-U Illini After 5 Rotary has supported the speaking contest by providing for the first place awards to the speaker and their charity. C-U IA5 has provided this support for a number of years, but when the current Illinois budget crisis threatened to cause the event to be canceled, C-U IA5 successfully wrote a grant from District designated funds to help provide additional support.



Hannah King

D6490 clubs can get 'vision' of their future

The District 6490 District Conference in Bloomington-Normal was a great Rotary experience for many of our District Rotarians, Interactors/Rotaractors, guests and, especially, GSE team members from the country of Romania.

All had the opportunity to enjoy the "House of Friendship," with the beautiful and plentiful display of club-donated baskets in a silent auction to raise funds for PolioPlus, along with displays of club projects, both at the local level and international.

Also available, PDG Ron Schettler had a table full of materials related to the new D6490 "Club Visioning Program." Many reviewed and several committed to following up with their club leadership to pursue participating in the Visioning Program.

PDG Schettler noted that five clubs have participated in the Club Visioning Program, along with six other clubs



PDG Ron Schettler explains the 'Club Visioning' program.

signed up for the Visioning Program to be presented to the club for review. At the conference another seven clubs committed to review with their club leadership and possibly set a date for the club presentation as soon as possible.

Any club interested in learning more should contact PDG Ron Schettler or

DGN Larry Howell. They can come to address the club with a brief presentation to help the club decide how a Visioning program will benefit them.

Contact PDG Schettler at rrs110@consolidated.net or contact DGN Howell at larryjh902@yahoo.com.

The Secret Code of Rotary

- ADG Assistant District Governor
- COL Council on Legislation
- CSRYE Central States Rotary
- Youth Exchange
- D District
- DG District Governor
- DGN District Governor Nominee
- DGE District Governor Elect
- DICO District Internet Communication Officer
- DLP District Leadership Pin
- DMDC District Membership Development Chair
- DPFC District Permanent Fund Chair
- DRFC District Rotary Foundation Chair
- DRR District Rotaract Representative
- GSE Group Study Exchange
- IAS International Ambassadorial Scholarship
- MOP Manual of Procedure
- P President
- PDG Past District Governor
- PE President-Elect
- PETS Presidents-Elect Training

- Seminar
- PHF Paul Harris Fellow
- PHSM Paul Harris Sustaining Member
- PN Presidential Nominee
- PP Past President
- PR Public Relations
- PRID Past Rotary International
- Director
- PRIP Past Rotary International
- President
- RC Rotary Club
- RI Rotary International
- RID Rotary International Director
- RIP Rotary International President
- RIPE Rotary International President Elect
- RIPN Rotary International President Nominee
- RYE Rotary Youth Exchange
- RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Award
- TRF The Rotary Foundation
- YEC Youth Exchange Counselor
- YEO Youth Exchange Officer



Ready to serve

Rotary Club of Savoy members Paul Taylor, left, and Jacob Shaw work the grill at the club's annual pancake and sausage breakfast on March 12 at the First Baptist Church in Savoy