

ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER HUNTSVILLE

MONTHLY MEMBER MEMO

AUGUST 2020



Rotary Opens Opportunities

A new way for our club to stay up to date while staying safe.

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the RCGH *Monthly Membership Memo*. In these challenging times it's important to stay connected and RCGH is finding ways to keep our members in the know. Virtual club meetings will be with us for a while and to make things even easier, we are looking into more options to keep everyone connected. This newsletter is one such tool; watch for more to come!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members Mr. Nile Clifton and Mr. Gerry Norris. They were approved some time ago and have been very patient while we hoped to resume in-person meetings for their orientation and induction. With no timeline for these meetings, they are the first ever RCGH members to undergo a virtual induction. It's obvious these gentlemen are going to be trendsetters in our club! We are so happy to have you join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club meetings (Virtual meetings continue)

August 5: DG Lee Weinman – The State of the District and Your Role in It

August 12: Josh Caray – Rocket City Trash Pandas Update

August 19: Pam Williams – Huntsville/ Madison County CVB – Huntsville Restaurant week

August 26: Marie Bostic (or designee) – Land Trust of North Alabama – Nature Discovery Center

September 9: David Spillers – COVID-19 Update

Next Board meeting: August 10, 3:30pm

Service projects:

August 29, 8am: Veterans Memorial Cleanup



Committee meetings: Committee meetings will be posted here for your convenience. Interested in one of the committees, contact the committee chair for more information.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

As we begin a new Rotary Year, all of us are painfully aware that we are now operating in a completely different world as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, so I just want to thank you for your continued support and engagement in our club.

Looking ahead, however, as the cases of this disease continue to rise in Madison County, the State, and around the world, following the status quo in terms of club events, fundraising, and sponsorships is not possible – especially since our #1 concern is to preserve your health and safety. We ask you to continue to have faith in your club and attend the weekly ZOOM meetings as much as possible.

Remember, together we've done a lot of great things during the last Rotary Year. Our club provided more than 1400 community service hours, built more than 20 wheelchair ramps, provided scholarships to young women in Uganda, sponsored the Jemison Robotics team, helped save the lives of young children through KidzSafe Traffic Calming events, and much, much more! We have lots of great programming ahead of us for this Rotary Year and together we will get through this unprecedented time to an even brighter future for this club!

COVID CORNER

We are all painfully aware of the impact of the COVID pandemic on our local meetings and functions. Sadly, this is true in many places across the globe. Even the annual convention was changed to a virtual event. Clubs just like ours are holding virtual meetings and socials,

working to support local communities in need, and helping each other deal with the challenges and stresses associated with this unusual situation.

One forum for all Rotarians is a Facebook page, "Rotary Club Del Mondo: End CORONAVIRUS Now." With nearly 6,000 page members this group offers insights from Rotarians around the world showing how clubs and individuals are making a difference.

Can we find anything positive in this health crisis? We do see people coming together for the good of others and Rotarians reaching across districts, regions, and countries to find opportunities to serve. Even in the worst of times, Rotary is not cancelled, it's just different and together we can make the difference a positive thing for us and others.

Rotarians are People of Action who put Service Above Self. Not even a pandemic can change that.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month Chris Kern, our President Elect, is our member in the spotlight. Chris was born and raised in San Diego. A cousin visiting San Diego from Harstsele, AL knew Stacy and introduced them 20 years ago. They have been married for 16 years.

His father was raised in Alabama and returned to Gurly in 2000. Chris and Stacy left San Diego for Seattle, WA in 2010 for a work project, but ultimately decided to move to Huntsville with their two children, Ysabel (13) and CJ (10), in 2013 to be closer to family.

Chris has been in banking for 25 years and is currently a Commercial Lender with BBVA Compass Bank. He also serves as Treasurer for "Still Serving Veterans," a non-profit providing veterans with free employment placement and VA Benefits services.

Most fun activities for Chris revolve around his family. They love the outdoors fishing, kayaking, disc golf and river adventures. He plays in local volleyball leagues, skies in the winter, when he can get to the beach, he loves sport fishing. Given that he grew up working on tuna boats in San Diego and once caught a 250-pound marlin on 20 pound test line, it's easy to see how that would be a joy for him.

Chris met Jim Philips at a business networking event. Jim invited him to a Rotary meeting and Chris joined in 2014. He was drawn to RCGH by the people and the impact the club has on the community. "Once you participate in a ramp build, you're hooked." Chris has been active in club leadership and invites members to attend board meetings to learn how they can help the club accomplish more be even

more dynamic. "There is a strong core of members who do the heavy lifting and more hands make lighter work." Chris truly embodies the Rotary motto of People of Action as one who puts Service Above Self.



VIRTUALLY SOCIAL

Be sure to check the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville Facebook page. It includes information about meetings, speakers, club functions, other pertinent items of interest. Please "follow" and "like" the page so we can increase its visibility.

Also stay tuned to updates to the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville's webpage, <https://greaterhsv.com>. Big things are coming to enhance your Rotary experience!

Rotary 
Club of Greater Huntsville

AUGUST: Membership and New Club Development Month

Did you know that in addition to the annual theme, Rotary has special observances for each month of the year? August is Membership and New Club Development. Membership events are a true challenge in the time of COVID due to social distances and enhanced health concerns. In spite of this, we are working to enhance our club for the benefit of our current members and to encourage potential new members to find Rotary as a means to offer service above self, network with other professionals, and find fellowship whether in a physical meeting place or virtually.

Do you know someone who would find Rotary a way to enhance their life as well as our club? Invite them to a meeting or direct them to our Facebook page or website.



ROTARY HISTORY MOMENT

A wheel has been the symbol of Rotary since our earliest days. The first design was by Chicago Rotarian Montague Bear, an engraver who drew a simple wagon wheel, with a few lines to show dust and motion. The wheel was said to illustrate "Civilization and Movement." Most early clubs had some form of wagon wheel on their publications and letterheads. Finally, in 1922, it was decided that all Rotary

clubs should adopt a single design as the exclusive emblem of Rotarians. In 1923, the present gear wheel, with 24 cogs and six spokes was adopted by the "Rotary International Association." A group of engineers advised that the geared wheel was mechanically unsound and would not work without a "keyway" in the center of the gear to attach it to a power shaft. So, in 1923 the keyway was added and the design which we now know was formally adopted as the official Rotary International emblem.

VITAL STATISTICS

August Birthdays

Michael Rogers
Mary Lawrence
David Keen
James French
James Daniel
Roy Currie
Randell Bateman
Charles Adams

August Rotary Anniversaries

Curtis Hunt
George Laslo
Melanie Buford
Harry Puryear
Billy Barnes
Will Kirkpatrick

MEMBER INPUT

- *What would you like to see included in your newsletter?
- *Do you have an idea for an article, recurring column or information you would like to see?
- *Would you like to submit something for inclusion in the newsletter?
- *Contact Mary Edgecomb at mary.edgecomb@gmail.com