



RI President-elect Announces 2022-23 Presidential Theme



Rotary International President-elect Jennifer Jones wants members to imagine the possibilities in the change they can make to transform the world. Jones, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada, revealed the 2022-23 presidential theme, *Imagine Rotary*, as she urged people to dream big and harness their connections and the power of Rotary to turn those dreams into reality.

“Imagine, a world that deserves our best,” Jones told incoming district governors on 20 January, “where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference.” Jones, who will make history on 1 July by becoming Rotary’s first female president, gave a live online address to precede Rotary’s annual training event for district governors from around the world, the International Assembly. The assembly was rescheduled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be held virtually 7-14 February.

Jones told the incoming governors about a chance she took when a member asked for assistance in getting a young peace activist out of Afghanistan during the U.S. troop withdrawal last .
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Meeting

This week’s meeting, our 27th was not as well attended as the past few weeks, but that may have been because of the weather. We went through our regular rituals and then President Julie had some club business to cover. The Baker House tour is full, unfortunately. We still need at least 2 volunteers for voting duty (seen explanation under news and announcements).

Our meeting speaker was Tom Stark, director of the local chapter of Operation Christmas

Child. This is part of Franklin Graham’s (Billy Graham’s son) origination, Samaritan Purse. Since its inception in 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered over 183 million boxes to children at Christmas time in 170 countries. In addition to the United States, 11 other countries supply boxes.

After the boxes are packed, they are shipped to one of 8 different locations in the US. Ones packed here are shipped to Georgia. Each box is then checked by volunteers and any
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year. At first unsure how she could help, she relied on “that certain Rotary magic” and contacted a former Rotary Peace Fellow she had met a few years earlier. Less than 24 hours later, the activist was on an evacuation list, and soon she was on her way to Europe

Engaging members through meaningful responsibility

To better engage members, Rotary needs to “adapt and retool,” Jones said, using her hometown as an example. Windsor was once the automotive hub of Canada. But after plant closings left thousands without work, the city needed to retool, in the same way an auto plant would, preparing for new parts or a new model. Now, Jones said, Windsor is a leader in agribusiness and medical and aerospace technology. For Rotary, “finding the right ‘part’ to engage each member should be our core function,” Jones said. “It comes down to the comfort and care of our members.”

Engaging members is crucial to retaining members, she said, adding that we need to ask members what they want to get from Rotary and give them meaningful responsibilities. “It is our offer of hands-on service, personal growth, leadership development, and lifelong friendships that creates purpose and passion,” Jones said. Imagine, a world that deserves our best where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference.

Embracing change also means embracing new club models, Jones said, as she asked the incoming governors to form at least two new innovative or cause-based clubs during their term. “Let’s make sure we engage our members, so they love their clubs and their Rotary experience,” she added.

Jones also announced the appointment of a Rotaract member as a Rotary public image coordinator and said that she has included Rotaractors on several committees and will assign some Rotaractors as president’s representatives. “We have been entrusted with leadership in our great organization,” Jones said. “Now it is up to us to be brave and intentional in our actions, and let others help us lead.”

Jones noted that Rotary has little time left to achieve the RI Board of Directors’ goal of having women make up 30% of Rotary’s members by 2023. Rotary has achieved this in more than 110 countries, she said, but it has a long way to go. She pointed out that Rotaract has already achieved 50% female members.

To raise Rotary’s profile, Jones plans to hold a global impact tour that will include talking with leaders about working together to address the world’s most pressing challenges. “Rotary opens these doors and we need to harness our connections, to deepen these relationships and create new partnerships,” Jones said. “And the best part is, this can happen at every level of leadership.”

Jones closed her address by saying that although we all have dreams, acting on them is a choice we make. When an organization like Rotary dreams about big things like ending polio and creating peace, she said, it becomes our responsibility to make them happen. “You don’t imagine yesterday,” Jones said, “you imagine tomorrow.”

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dangerous and certain undesirable items, such as guns, are removed. They are then sorted by age and gender and put into shipping containers. This past year Lake and Sumter Counties packed over 50,000 boxes thanks to volunteers and Village clubs.

When the Christmas boxes arrive in each country, they are checked again and then volunteers distribute them. For many of these kids, this is the first gift they have ever received. One older child, in particular, when give a box of crayons, and since had never seen a crayon didn't know what to do with them.

Here are some of the items that you can donate for the boxes, just bring to a meeting.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Beanie babies | Stuffed animals | Yarn | Washcloths |
| Fabric | Shoe strings | Sild flowers | Zip lock baggies-all sizes |
| Dolls | Matchbox cars | Ball caps | Balls |
| Ribbon | Beads | Jewelry | Crochet hooks |
| Altoid boxes | Plastic spoons | Yo-yos | Coloring books |
| Socks age 2-14 | Scarves | Purses | Bowls |
| Promotional items | Elastic | Buttons | Pens/Pencils |

The organization has what they call a "Filler Factory" which is held twice a year in late summer and in the fall. This is where volunteers get together to pack the shoe boxes. Pat Roam will let us know the exact dates. Hopefully our club can have a great showing to help this wonderful organization. You can also build a box on line by going on Samaritan's Purse, select Operation Christmas Child and select Built a Box. You then can customize your own box with the cost depending on what

Our club has purchased Sensory Paths for use by autistic students at Harbour View. They were delivered last week and will be installed in the next couple of weeks



Our club's foundation purchased several foil sleeping mats, blankets, and toiletries for St. Theresa's to Give to the homeless in the area.

**Officers & Directors
2021-2022**

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Julie Schmied

President Elect

Sue Bodenner

President Elect Nominee

Open

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Sue Bodenner

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Youth Services

Karl Keri

Club Positions

Sergeant-at-Arms

Rich Tapia

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Open

Assistant Treasurer

Open

Assistant Secretary

Open

Programs

Jim Bodenner

Guests

Judy Reynolds

Tom Stark (Speaker)

Bob Haas

News and Announcements

After Meeting Dinner

Dinner after next week's meeting will be at Evans Prairie (outdoors with heaters). If you would like to attend please contact Norm Davis @ 617-840-9279 or norm4323@yahoo.com

Fundraising Opportunity

Our club has a chance to raise \$4400.00 by participating in Sumter County Adopt-A-Precinct program. For us to participate we will need to provide 15-17 volunteers (we are 4 short presently) for the primary election on August 23rd and the election on November 8th. You must be a registered voter in Sumter County and work from 5:45am to 7:00pm. Training will take place in tow sessions, one in person and one on line.

If you can volunteer please contact President Julie who can answer any questions you have.

Fellowship Dinner

Our soup contest has been changed to be held on March 9th due to COVID concerns. Anyone is invited to make their favorite soup and bring it to the meeting. Everyone will taste each of the soups and a winner will be chosen. If you are not bringing soup, please bring bread,

Currently we are conducting "hybrid" meetings every Wednesday **starting at 5:00pm**. You can attend in person at Lake Miona (face mask optional and Villages ID required), or join by ZOOM.

Meeting ID 291 972 2411 and Password 84594

Meetings

Feb 2nd Jim Bodenner

Committee Meetings

Feb 9th Board Meeting (all invited)

Event

Feb 11th Baker House tour

Mar 9th Soup Tasting (at regular meeting)

Apr 8th Everything But Food Drive

Jun 4-8 International Convention (Online)