

100+ YEARS OF ROTARY IN NACOGDOCHES

The Rotary Club of Nacogdoches

Charter #892, 1 April 1921



#2041 - District 5910

The 19th of May 2021

"Rotary Opens Opportunities"

Holger Knaack, President RI  
Home Club:  
Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln  
Germany

The district Herzogtum Lauenburg is named after the medieval Duchy of Saxe-Lauenburg, which was one of the remnants of the original Duchy of Saxony. The Duchy of Saxony was partitioned in a process started in 1269, nine years after in 1260 Albert II and John I had succeeded their father Albert I of Saxon.

RI President Holger Knaack's theme for Rotary Year 2020-2021 is based on his introduction, "Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth."

Program Today

CASA

Tonya Harry, Executive Director

Introduction by Ron Collins

Born and raised in East Texas, Tonya moved to Nacogdoches in 1990 to attend SFASU. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology, as well as met and married her husband of 28 years, Coy. Tonya's first job out of college was with the Nacogdoches Housing Authority assisting low income families with housing needs. She spent time managing a low income public housing complex where the exposure to at-risk youth drew her to working with Child Protective Services. She spent 5 years doing field work in child abuse investigations, 8.5 years supervising the Investigations unit for Nacogdoches and Shelby Counties, and over 2 years as Program Director of Investigations for the Northern end of Region 5 covering 8 counties. During her time at CPS, Tonya chaired the local Community Resource and Coalition Group for many years, and served as the agency representative on the boards for Child Advocacy Centers in all counties in her jurisdiction. In 2015, Tonya accepted the position of Executive Director of CASA of Deep East Texas to allow her to continue advocacy for victims of child abuse and neglect, and to be closer to home. CASA of Deep East Texas serves Nacogdoches, Shelby, and San Augustine Counties which were already familiar territories. She is a member of the Nacogdoches Rotary Club and her favorite service project to date is reading with children at the local elementary schools. She recently joined the board of Pineywoods Blue Star Mothers which is made up of mothers with children in the armed forces. Tonya and Coy have 2 children, Connor and Cate. Connor is in the US Army, and Cate is a freshman at Douglass High School.

Her hobbies include family time, even if game night is 4 of the most competitive people in the world and will end in good natured arguments about who won. She also enjoys time at the gym, coffee without anyone speaking, road trips with her children, naps with her Great Dane at her feet, and music. Tonya considers her life to be full of blessings and is grateful to have a career that allows her to serve some of our community's most vulnerable citizens.

CASA

When a child enters the foster care system because his or her home is no longer safe, a judge may appoint a committed volunteer to help them. That volunteer is called a Court Appointed Special Advocate®, or CASA. CASA volunteers are screened and highly trained and then appointed by judges to represent and advocate for a child's best interests in the child protection system. CASA volunteers are each assigned to help one child or set of siblings at a time, so they can focus on giving that child or sibling group the individualized advocacy and attention they need. CASA volunteers save taxpayers money and children's futures by helping children find a safe, permanent homes as soon as possible. CASA continues to provide valuable volunteer advocacy for every abused child in this area. CASA volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" for the judge in child welfare cases. This includes researching each child's situation and making objective recommendations to help them reclaim their childhoods from abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers are frequently the only stable presence in these children's lives as they navigate the foster care system. These volunteers bring three critical qualities to their work: they focus on one case at a time; they bring a unique perspective to the court case; and their sole objective is representing the best interests of the child.

Rotary Programs

Miles McCall

President-Elect and Program Chairman

May 2021 Programs

Ron Collins, Program Chairman

26 May

The Honorable Jimmy Mize  
Mayor of Nacogdoches  
Introduction by Ron Collins

2020-2021 Program Leaders

Miles McCall, President-Elect

If you have a suggestion for a speaker/program, please contact Miles McCall or the monthly program leader.

2021

June - Ken Deppisch

District Governor's Visit

to the Rotary Club of Nacogdoches

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at Noon

Last Week

Scholarship Recipients

Last week we had Fifteen of the Sixteen scholarship recipients present for our meeting. One young lady was taking an advancement placement exam and was unable to attend the luncheon, but both of her parents came and were part of the celebration. The RCN distributed sixteen scholarship in the amounts of \$1,750.00 down to \$500.00. A grand total of \$16, 500.00. The students and parent(s) were most appreciative and we are all excited for this opportunity to help future generations.

Last Week

Guest and Visitors

Melanie Matson was the guest of Jimmy Partin, Ken Matthews was the guest of MaryAnn Bentley, Bonnie Mitchell was the guest of Wayne Mitchell, and Peggy Partin was the guest of Jimmy Partin,

Visiting Rotarians

Lata Karisharo was visiting from the Pearland Rotary Club  
Mindi Snyder was visiting from the El Campo Rotary Club  
Robert Rasberry, visiting from the Fredonia Club, was the guest of the Club

May Rotary Birthdays

A BIG Rotary Happy May Birthday to:

2 May

Paul Anderson

5 May

Preston Atwood

8 May

Leon Hallman

10 May

Jim Stallworth

12 May

Grace Handler

14 May

Ben Blake

17 May

Steve Williams

22 May

Andrew Jones and John McLaren

25 May

Nathan Hodge

29 May

Laura Culpepper and Billy Elliott

Rotary Billing

If anyone has a Billing question, please contact:  
RCN Treasurer:  
Bob Guilbeau  
281-777-0434  
936-305-3635  
E-mail: [bguilbeau50@gmail.com](mailto:bguilbeau50@gmail.com)

If you are unable to contact Bob, please call or email the RCN Book Keeper:  
Lori Cotten  
936-676-8266  
Email: [lori.cotten@rocketmail.com](mailto:lori.cotten@rocketmail.com)

Kent Ferguson, MDC Chairman

MDC Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the NEDCO board room in the Old Mize Building on North Street. Kent asks for all new member proposals be sent to him at [wkentferguson@gmail.com](mailto:wkentferguson@gmail.com) or by snail mail at this address: 3490 CR 258, Nacogdoches, TX 75965

Thank you in advance for your commitment to Rotary.

Satellite Rotary Club

This message is for ALL active Nacogdoches Rotary Club members! Even though you may not be part of the Satellite Group,

YOU ARE ALWAYS INVITED!  
Second Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m.,  
Napoli's Restaurant

You are welcome to order food and drink, or just enjoy the fellowship along with the program.

Leadership Tips

"The only person you should be better than is the person you were yesterday."

-----borrowed

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

-Anne Bradstreet

Field of Honor

Greg Williams announced last week that the Club's upcoming Field of Honor event with a display of American flags will be posted during the week of Memorial Day in Festival Park. Flags may be sponsored honoring specific veterans for an annual donation of \$50.00. Flags are flown for Memorial and Veteran's Days. Greg will have sign-up sheets available today. Also, you may visit the Nacogdoches Rotary Club's website for more information.

Posting and Striking Colors at Sunset Cemetery

Chairman Larry Stanaland relayed to The Thunder Editor the schedule for Posting and Striking the Colors at the Cemetery.

Post: Saturday, 29 May 2021 at 6:45 a.m.  
Strike: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 at 6:45 a.m.

Please join us and help us to remember those who fought and died for our freedoms!



Rotary Club of Nacogdoches - May 12, 2021:

MaryAnn Bentley, Chairman of the Rotary Scholarship Committee presented the club's annual scholarship awards totaling \$16,500.00 to sixteen well deserving senior students from Nacogdoches County schools. Scholarship recipients are chosen by the club's scholarship committee composed of club members Ms. Bentley, Rey Morin, Lindsey Vardeman, Kent Ferguson and John Callahan with selection based on a student's letter of introduction, academic achievements, essay on the Rotary "Service above Self" Motto, extracurricular and community involvement and interview. This year's scholarships were presented to Stuart Beal, Reid Boyett, Fidel Juarez, Lillian Hook, Joanna Ramirez, Kamden Hathaway, Kennedy Heath, Sierra Smith, Hadley Watts, Joshua Nichols, Jacob Jolley, Emily Petty, Cody Monlezun, Logan Lee, Mason Rasberry and Davis Matson. The group was very impressive and appreciated by all in attendance. Greg Williams provided an update of the club's upcoming Field of Honor event with a display of American flags to be posted during the week of Memorial Day in Festival Park. Flags may be sponsored honoring specific veterans for an annual donation of \$50.00. Those interested should visit the Nacogdoches Rotary Club website for further information. Pictured front row left to right are: Ms. Hook, Ms. Heath, Ms. Watts, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Petty, Ms. Hathaway, Mr. Beal and Mr. Lee. Back Row left to right are: Ms. Bentley, Ms. Vardeman, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Morin, Mr. Boyett, Mr. Matson, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Monlezun, Mr. Rasberry, Mr. Juarez, Mr. Jolley, Mr. Williams and Donna Finley, Club President.

Find Opportunities that Interest you		
Ask about serving		
Remember: Each Rotarian has a talent!		
Adopt-a-Highway Trash Pick-up Bike Ride	Contact: Milton Moorer _____	552.1994
	Contact: Ray Mitchum _____	554.8156
	Juan Gonzales _____	903.530.1727
Calling on Rotarians	Contact: MaryAnn Bentley _____	569.7447
	_____ or _____	556.0268
Greeting Committee	Contact: Kent Ferguson _____	281.847.9880
High School Exchange Program	Contact: Dave Wallace _____	371.3033
Literacy Committee	Contact: Barbara Qualls _____	972.351.7078
Meet the Jacks Fish Fry	Contact: Ed Pool _____	564.2622
Mobile Library	Contact: Ed Pool _____	564.2622
	Larissa Philpot _____	554.9980
Posting and Striking the Colors	Contact: Larry Stanaland _____	554.8738
Interact/Rotaract	Contact: Robin Thacker. _____	806.729.1066
	Sam Smith _____	369.6824
Rotary Readers	Contact: Jimmy Partin _____	564.6816
RYLA Drivers	Contact: Ray Mitchum _____	554.8156
Rotary Scholarship Applications	Contact: MaryAnn Bentley _____	569.7447
	_____ or _____	556.0268
Speakers and Programs	Contact: Miles McCall _____	Direct 715.4154
	_____ Cell _____	569.4790
Field of Honor	Contact: Greg Williams _____	559.8201
	Matt Turner _____	234.0975