



Rotaripost

NOON — 12:00  
Meeting  
February 23,  
2021

**Keynote**

**Bitter or Better: Doing More With Less**



*RaShad Bristo*

**RaShad Bristo's** greatest wish since his growing up in Mansfield, LA was to become a police officer. His drive and determination led him to pursue that dream after graduating from Grambling State University with a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Soon afterward he was hired and deputized by DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office, then sent to the police academy. After going through weeks of vigorous training, however, RaShad was denied certification to become a Peace Officer just days before graduation.

Opposition and discrimination met RaShad head on. Having one arm had all of a sudden become a crime in itself. Emotionally wounded and with a dream nearly shattered, he recalled the words that his grandfather told him as a boy, "Son, your disability does not define you, your determination does." God moved and blessed RaShad to become a certified Peace Officer.

After several years, RaShad is the only person in the State of Louisiana and the first person in the country with one arm to successfully graduate from a police academy and work in law-enforcement in the capacities of deputy sheriff, D.A.R.E. officer, juvenile probation officer and correctional officer.

Coming from a humble community, service to those around him as always been a priority in his life which fuels his motivational speaking, his weekly talk show on KHAM Radio as well as propelled him to becoming a published author with a memoir of his life experiences that have helped to shape his walk in life.

In 2016, following his retirement from law enforcement, he was awarded the Ken Vince Memorial Award by the Governor John Bel Edwards' Outstanding Leadership on Disabilities award for his ongoing contributions to those with disabilities across the state.



Tuesday,  
12:00 Noon

Historical Start  
12:13 p.m.

In-Person at  
Hilton Hotel  
Restaurant &  
Zoom On-Line  
Option

**ZOOM  
Only on  
Tuesday,  
February  
23rd**

**No in-  
Person  
meeting at  
the Hilton  
due to  
water  
pressure  
and food  
supplier  
delivery  
issues.**

## Hybrid Meetings

We will continue to offer hybrid meetings (in-person and Zoom). Here is the Zoom invite that can be used through June 29, 2021. If you are unable to use the link, simply sign into your free Zoom account, click on the option to Join a Meeting and use the Meeting ID and Password. The waiting room will be used to monitor admittance and avoid any “Zoom bombing”.

Topic: Rotary Club of Shreveport Weekly Meeting  
Time: February 23, 2021—12:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83836609051?pwd=VGlxUUFFL0ILSGIwVFNEM3kzL0dGZz09>

**Meeting ID: 838 3660 9051**

**Passcode: 870740**

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 838 3660 9051

Passcode: 870740

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k1yztg9pq>

## Last Week's Program



Last week on our Zoom meeting Russ Mathers provided us with information on STRIKEWERX and all of the projects in which they are involved in the community. Many of us were amazed at the collaborative work they are doing in partnership with the military and our local community college and universities.

Several of you asked for his contact information which is [russ.mathers@strikewerx.com](mailto:russ.mathers@strikewerx.com). The facilitation need that he mentioned is at <https://cyberinnovationcenter.org/careers/>. Here's the [STRIKEWERX website](#).

## Common Ground Service Project

**Saturday, February 27th—10:00 a.m.**

Common Ground, 6806 Southern Ave.

Needed are 6-8 volunteers to pack books and activity items in the Rotary Learning Bus bags. These will be delivered to Atkins School for the children.

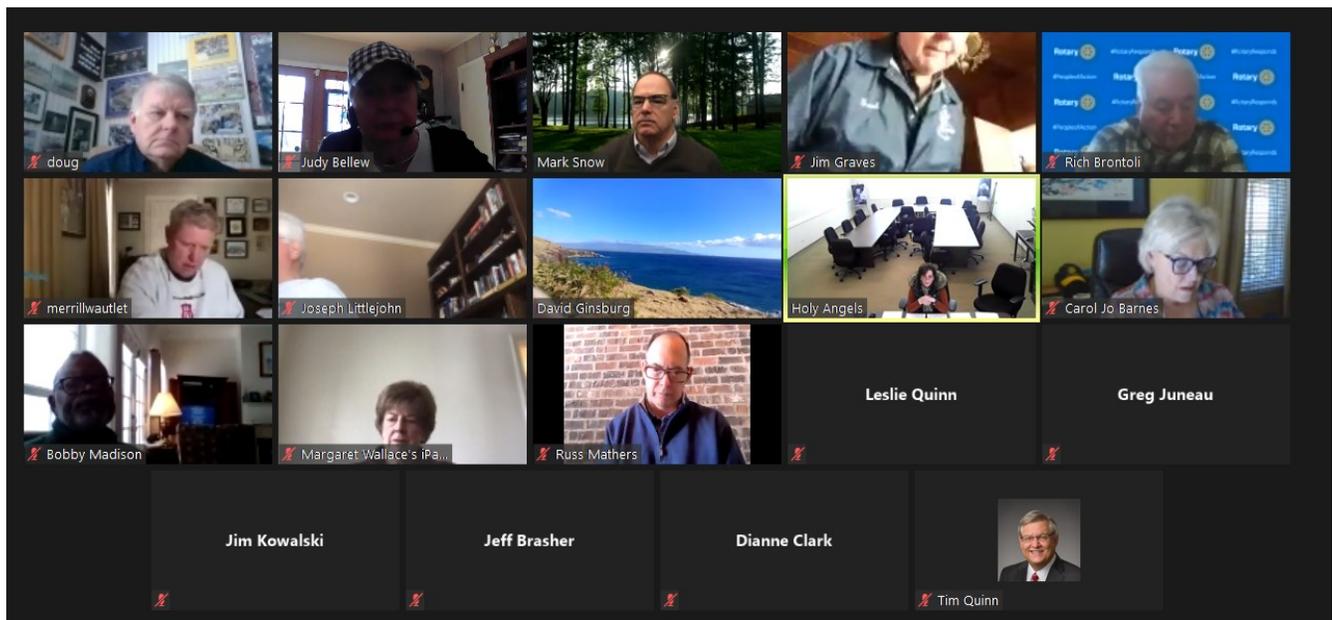
Contact Judy Bellew at the Rotary office if you would like to participate.

*With  
Sympathy*

Our condolences to Rotarian Bob Neff for the death of his wife on February 13, 2021.

Bob and Pam were married for 52 years. Pam occasionally attended our meetings with Bob and he presented her with a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2015.

Our sympathy to Rotarian Bruce Willson for the death of his brother Dale Willson in Colorado.



Who had heard of ZOOM at this time, February 2020? It certainly became a lifeline during COVID-19. And it has been nice to know that we can continue having hybrid meetings to accommodate those who, for one reason or the other, are unable to get to our in-person meetings.

It is certainly not a substitute for the personal contacts, visiting with like-minded community leaders and....yes, even business networking. But we are thankful that the technology is there so we can remain in touch with each other! Thank you Rotarians for being flexible!

# Zoom Virtual Backgrounds



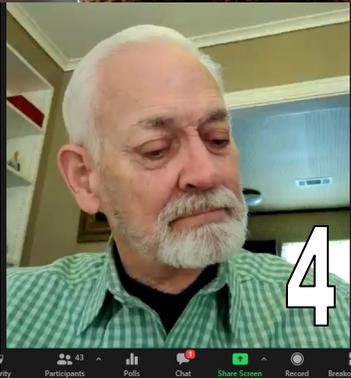
- 1—Steven Bell with his flying ducks.
- 2—Karen Johnson with the 2021-2022 new Rotary theme logo “Serve To Change Lives”. (See page 6 to see the entire logo.)
- 3—Rich Brontoli with the Rotary logo (you too can get this background).
- 4—Mark Snow at a lovely park area.



5—Mike McSwain...is he behind bars with his stick? Or maybe just outside the bars with his stick?



*And Then We Have...*



- 1—Darrell Rebouche being a good citizen by lowering his thermostat.
- 2—Akmal Mikhail enjoyed Zoom from home...no surgeries at the V.A. that day.
- 3—Martha Marak is elegant every day!
- 4—Gard Wayt with his van dyke beard style.
- 5—David Brainis with his snowy road scene and a scary critter.



## Rotaripost

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Call Judy Bellew if you have any  
questions about the club.

Follow us on Facebook

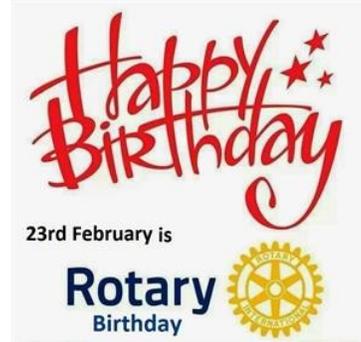


**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

**Upcoming In-Person (Hilton  
Restaurant) and  
Zoom Program**

**March 2, 2021**

**Story Corps  
Dave Isay & Ann Wills**



## Happy 116th Birthday, Rotary!

Rotary started with the vision of one man—Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on February 23, 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing challenges in their communities and around the world.

On February 6, 1914, thirteen Shreveport men gathered at the Youree Hotel. Various professions and businesses were represented. The 13 men that attended established a unique meeting time of the club: 12:13 p.m.

On February 28, 1914, these original 13 men along with another 27 men formally organized and petitioned to be a member of the International Association of Rotary Clubs (now Rotary International). Our club was officially chartered as Club #109 on April 1, 1914.

Today there are 1.2 Million members in 35,000+ clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.