



# Rotaripost

January 30,  
2018

## Keynote

## Providence House



During the 2016-2017 Rotary year Providence House received a \$4,000 grant from us for one of their projects. A portion of your membership dues funded our grants last year so each of you participated in providing these grants.

Next Tuesday **Verni Howard** will tell us how the funds were used at Providence House.

Verni is a native of Shreveport and an honor graduate of Caddo Magnet High School. She earned a B.S. in microbiology and a masters in public administration from LSU-Baton Rouge. When a banking job relocation brought her back to Shreveport, Verni was quickly tapped to serve on the Providence House board. She became executive director of Providence House in 2015.

Verni joined our club in 2016 and became a Paul Harris Fellow in 2017. She has received many community awards over the years with her most recent accolade from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation as she was named one of 2017 Angel Award winners.

She is married to Rotarian Don Howard and they have two children.

Tuesday,  
12:00 Noon

12:13 p.m.  
Historical Start

Shreveport  
Convention  
Center

### Rotarians Serving Others

James Money  
Adams Table

Denis Raffle  
Poljak

Don Scanner-  
Howard Greeter-4Way  
Test

Rodney Invocation  
Crews Inspiration

Reggie  
Abrams Music  
And  
Kermit  
Poling

## Civic Grants!

Area non-profit organizations planning projects to benefit the Shreveport-Bossier community in the coming year may now apply for local funding to aid their efforts. The Rotary Club of Shreveport is accepting civic grant applications, which must be postmarked no later than **February 16, 2018**.

Details and application are on our club website at  
[www.rotaryclubofshreveport.org](http://www.rotaryclubofshreveport.org).

### The Rotary Foundation Award

**Robert Smith** was recognized last Tuesday for becoming a new Paul Harris Fellow, especially significant as he has only been in the club for about six months. Robert was born and reared in rural Winn Parish on a cattle and hay farm. After spending time in New York and other locations, he relocated to Shreveport in 2012 to establish a new business, Preferred Care at Home of Northwest Louisiana, with a partner. In addition to being a co-owner, Robert is CEO of that company. Within the first three years Preferred Care at Home attained top tier status in the national franchise.

Robert holds the designation of Certified Senior Advisor® and is a licensed insurance producer specializing in long term care policies. He also serves on the Board for the Shreveport/Bossier Alzheimer’s Agency. In 2017 his business was recognized as *The Forum* Business of the Year Award.



*President Teri presented the Paul Harris certificate and pin to Robert Smith*



## Paul Harris Fellow Level Ups



*President Teri thanks Denis Poljak for his support of The Rotary Foundation.*

**Denis Poljak** was recognized for reaching the Paul Harris Fellow +3 level. Denis grew up in Zenica, Bosnia and came to the U.S. to attend Centenary College on a full tennis scholarship. After receiving his degrees in accounting and business administration from Centenary, he earned his MBA from Louisiana Tech and his PhD in economics from the University of Sarajevo.

Serving as senior vice president with Morgan Stanley and senior partner with the King Poljak Group, Denis holds professional designations of CIMA®, CPM® and CFP®.

He previously was a member of the Rotary Club of South Shreveport before joining our club in 2012. Denis continues his support of Centenary and has received their Young Alumni Leadership Award

Denis' younger brother **Davor Poljak** received his Paul Harris +2 pin on Tuesday. He followed the same path to the U.S. as Denis. Davor received a full tennis scholarship to Centenary.

After graduating with a degree in business administration he operated his own successful tennis academy in his native country of Bosnia and then returned to the U.S. to work at several prominent tennis academies around the U.S.

In 2006 Davor joined the King-Poljak Group at Morgan Stanley and is now vice-president and senior portfolio manager. He also has the CPM® certification. He joined our club in 2014.



Davor Poljak received words of appreciation from President Teri.

Both Poljak brothers speak four languages. In 2017 both Denis and Davor were inducted into the Centenary Athletic Hall of Fame.

## How is our club leadership selected?



“I was President last year, it’s your turn.” “Un uh, I did it two years ago. Maurice, you do it.” “Not me. I’ve done it three times! Get the new member from last year.” This is the officer nomination process at many small clubs.

As you already know, our process is different – very different. Knowing the group would become quite large, the wise men that chartered our club over 100 years ago created a process that ensures knowledgeable leadership by members who display a deep appreciation for Rotary International and our local club. The process also creates an accountability and continuity that prevents cronyism and a clique or rogue group from seizing power and causing damage.

### Leadership Structure

Our club leadership structure is a Board of Directors comprised of 5 officers (President, President Elect, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Immediate Past President) and 7 Board Members.

**Board Members** serve a one-year term. The qualification is to be a member in good standing (all dues are paid) for a minimum of two years. Due to the size of our club, members typically serve on the Board once. This ensures fresh ideas and gives everyone interested the chance to participate.

**Officers** commit to five years. The qualification is to have served on the Board. The only person not “elected” each year under current rules is the President. The President-Elect automatically assumes the office of President. It is tradition and custom that unless there is an unexpected vacancy, the only position filled each year is Secretary/Treasurer. Each year, the officers move up a position from Secretary/Treasurer to Vice-President then President Elect, then President, and finally Immediate Past President. By the time a person becomes President, they are well prepared and knowledgeable about Rotary, our club history, and have received thorough training from Rotary International.

## **Selection Process**

The selection process only provides nominations. Two committees are involved in this process.

### **Screening Committee**

The process for nominations begins in October with the Screening Committee, which is comprised of the current President, President Elect, and four Past Presidents who are selected by the current President and President Elect. The screening committee's responsibility is to provide a thorough list of candidates to the Nominating Committee.

### **Nominating Committee**

Current members who are Past-Presidents and the current President meet and nominate candidates for the Board positions. While they do review the list provided by the screening committee, they consider other members. One of the Past Presidents is selected to offer the nominations to the membership at the first meeting in December. Then, nominations from the floor are requested.

## **Intangible Qualities**

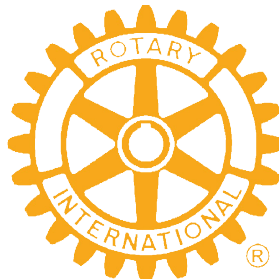
Beyond the qualifications mentioned above, these are the qualifications that the Past Presidents seek for the leaders who will run our club.

Good attendance

Active on committees; display leadership

Appreciation for Rotary International, evidenced by some contributions, no matter how small, to  
The Rotary Foundation

Our leader selection process and the 5-year commitment from the officers ensures that knowledge, accountability, and even loyalty are created through the careful selection by past-presidents who deeply care about our club and Rotary International. Our club is fortunate to have this in place.





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

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### Raffle Winners Last Week

TRF Raffle—Robert Touchstone

*(Thank you for donated to The Rotary Foundation. This applies to your Paul Harris Fellowship.)*

Flowers from Rose-Neath Florist—

Peyton Cole

Andy Shehee's hen eggs—Jerry Boughton

### Program on February 6, 2018

**Geaux4Kids**  
**K.C. Kilpatrick**

**Shreveport Convention Center**

*Rotary Club of Shreveport offers monthly service opportunities with ALL of our nonprofit members. It is our hope that this will re-emphasize the **SERVICE ABOVE SELF** motto and that these organizations will obtain new volunteers!*

### Food Bank Pack the Senior Boxes

Tuesday, February 20th—5:00 p.m. or a bit earlier—takes no more than an hour!

Great way to get to know fellow Rotarians not only in our club but in other local clubs! Bring a young person to introduce them to community service! No reservations needed—just show up!

### February supper service dates

February 1 and February 8 (always 1st and 2nd Thursdays)

4:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Limited spots—contact [Zelda Tucker](#) or [Judy Bellew](#) to get on the rotation list



Our past president Carol Barnes (who has relocated to Oxford, MS) was recognized at District 6800's district conference. She is a Major Donor and a member of the Paul Harris Society. She reached both of those goals while a member of our club. She is very active in her new home club.