



# Rotaripost

12:00 NOON  
ZOOM  
Meeting  
May 12, 2020

**Keynote**

## Bois d'Arc Reservoir, Red River America's Newest Reservoir

### Theme For Tuesday's Zoom Meeting A Beach or Hawaiian Theme

As the Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance for the North Texas Municipal Water District, **Mike Rickman** is responsible for all aspects of NTMWD operations for the water, wastewater and solid waste systems. Included in his responsibilities are the District's Information, Technology, Environmental Services and Maintenance Services.



*Mike Rickman*

Mike joined the NTMWD in 2002. He previously served as Assistant Director of Water Operations for the City of Dallas where he worked for 33 years. In this capacity he was responsible for the daily operation of a system that provided water to the one million citizens of Dallas, plus 19 surrounding cities.

Mike is a board member, representing Texas, on the Red River Valley Association.

The NTMWD provides vital water, wastewater and waste management services to more than a million people who call North Texas their home. Since their inception more than six decades ago, they have collaborated with North Texas cities and communities on the design and operation of their systems. The member cities are Farmersville, Forney, Garland, McKinney, Mesquite, Princeton, Plano, Rockwall, Royse City, Wylie, Richardson, Allen and Frisco.



**Tuesday,  
Noon**

**12:13 p.m.  
Historical Start**

**Shreveport  
Convention  
Center**

### Club Officers (Executive Board)

*Richard Brontoli*      *President*

*Laurie Boswell*      *President-Elect*

*Lawrence Calhoun*      *Vice-President*

*David Cromwell*      *Secretary-Treasurer*

*Joe Littlejohn*      *Immediate Past President*

## Civic Grant Awards

Since 1999 our club has supported local non-profit organizations by awarding grants to those organizations for projects of their own. Approximately \$305,000 has been distributed through our competitive civic grant process since this program was initiated.

Funds for the awards were developed through early fund-raising efforts (Dragon Boat Festivals, golf tournaments, food truck throwdowns) and through individual donations to our club's 501 (c)(3) Rotary Club of Shreveport Foundation. In recent years our club members now have the ability to participate primarily through our membership dues process with some support from our Foundation.

The 2019-2020 Civic Grant Committee has announced the awards for this Rotary year:

\$5,000—**The ARC Caddo Bossier**—Project: Funding for two loafing sheds in the pastures used by the ARC's GREAT therapeutic horseback riding program for people with disabilities.

\$4,000—**David Raines Community Health Center**—Project: Provide quality healthcare to underserved children on the school site with emphasis on vision screenings.

\$4,000—**Heart of Hope**—Project: Purchase of mommy/baby furniture, computer for continued education and job search while in AfterCare.

\$4,000—**Sci-Port Discovery Center**—Project: Sponsor the "Itty Bitty Scientists/Little Learners Preschool STEAM" program for literacy and hands-on activities.

\$4,000—**Community Renewal**—Project: Playground equipment and picnic tables for the Highland neighborhood Friendship Houses.

These awards will be presented to the above organizations at our meeting on June 2, 2020. During the next Rotary year, each of these organizations will be invited to present a program at a weekly meeting to inform our members about the specific project that we funded.

In addition, the Committee selected these six organizations to receive \$300 speaker honorariums. Each organization will be recognized at the end of our lunch meetings for two months during the next Rotary year beginning July 1, 2020: Shreveport Bossier Rescue Mission, Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, United Way of Northwest Louisiana, Girls on the Run-Shreveport, AMIKids Caddo and Renzi Education and Arts Center.

This is a very satisfying committee on which to serve. Contact Committee Chair Mike Ferrell to be included in the selection process next year. Thanks to these members of our Civic Grant Committee for their hard work on the committee this year: Mike Ferrell (Chair), Doug Bland, Jerry Boughton, Rich Brontoli, Kristen Brown, Lawrence Calhoun, Merritt Chastain, Charles Grubb, Miles Hitchcock, Chris Holoman, Milton Hutchinson, Charlotte Jones, Greg Lott, Renee Petree, Darrell Rebouche, Gil Shanley, Elton Richey, Graham Thompson and Merrill Wautlet.

## A Rotarian You Should Know: Jonathan “Jon” Keith

Rotarian since 2017 (Will serve as a Club Director in 2020-2021)

**Profession:** State Director for Pathways in Education, a national high school dropout prevention program charter school.

**Hobbies:** RYLA, 4H, Cub/Boy Scouts; I’m a serial volunteer and can be found jumping in and helping in just about anything.

**Background:** Grew up in the Irish Southside of Chicago (about 1/2 mile from Rotarian founder Paul Harris’ grave site) on a small farm with chickens and a huge garden; B.A. from Trinity Christian College and M.A. in educational leadership from Concordia University.

**Country Living:** Always loved to travel to the country to hunt and fish; came to Shreveport for a week on an educational consulting job for Pathways-fell in love with the area and stayed; wife and children followed six months later; kids are now true Southern kids-they raise and care for champion small livestock; we all hunt, trap, ride horses; kids named their chicken farm “Humble and Kind Chicken Farm”.

**Success Story:** I’ve tracked down kids in all sorts of situations and gotten them back on track from Wal-Mart to hog hunts; once I tracked down a young man who was skipping school to go hog hunting– it just took a quick talk to gain his trust and get him back on track-he has since graduated and was our keynote speaker at graduation-he’s now a Scout with Armored Infantry and doing great!

**Things You May Not Know:** I was recruited to build, staff and lead the YMCA’s first high school in Metro Detroit; I’m a competitive spicy food eater and will enter any man vs. food challenge.

**COVID-19 Activity:** Go to work every day leading a team of 25 who are teaching from home; building a new fire pit and new archery backstops.



(Left) Holding a rabbit

(Right) Anyone for ax throwing?; getting a haircut from kids

Below) New fire pit and Jon with Rotary Disaster Aid trailer



## A Rotarian You Should Know:

### Dan "Brad" Graff

Rotarian since 1994 (Will serve as a Club Director 2020-2021)

**Profession:** Engineer (civil, environmental, mechanical) and surveyer employed by local firm Cothren Graff Smoak Engineering, Inc. since 1978; now serve as president.

**Early Beginnings/Education:** Youngest of three boys and one girl; raised in Queensborough and later Southern Hills; graduated from Southwood High School; received my B.S. in civil engineering and M.S. in engineering management from LA Tech.

**Hobbies:** Cave diving, snow skiing, flying and woodworking; took up cave diving with a best friend and fellow scuba instructor after watching a cave team enter a Mexican cenote, swim out of sight and return hours later with photos of a totally different and surreal world. I just had to try that!

**Things You May Not Know:** My wife Sally and I were married underwater at the foot of the "Christ of the Deep" statue in Pennekamp Park in Key Largo, Florida; I'm very involved with the Krewe of Gemini and had the honor to serve as Captain XVIII and King XXIV.

**COVID-19 Activities:** Clearing newly acquired property in east Texas; avoiding Texas trooper check points to try to keep out Louisiana "cooties" as I was going back and forth to Texas.

*(Below) Gemini King XXIV*



*(Top Left) - With my dog Bella clearing brush*

*(Bottom Left) On 5th grade team Judson Jetts*

*(Bottom Middle) Getting equipment ready for a cave dive*



## A Rotarian You Should Know:

# Anna Maria Sparke-Keele

Rotarian since 2012

**Profession:** Assistant Attorney General for the State of Louisiana handling primarily the defense of the State in civil matters; formerly CEO at H.A. Sparke Co., Inc.

**Background:** Summa cum laude graduate of Centenary College with B.A. in theatre, J.D. from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

**Hobbies:** Avid actress, singer and dancer who enjoys performing in every genre especially musicals. Last performance was as “Alice Murphy”, the lead in Shreveport Little Theatre’s production of “Bright Star”; will appear as “Anna” in the Emmett Hook Center’s production of “The King and I” rescheduled for 2021.

**Little Details:** Met my husband Meade Patton through the theatre and he appeared as Capt. Von Trapp to my Maria in the Sound of Music. We spent our honeymoon in Salzburg and Vienna, Austria; got involved in theatre through my mentor Ginger Folmer-she was looking for a dancer to play a role in “Hello Dolly!” in 1987—I was her student at Magnet High School so I auditioned and got the role. The rest is history!

**Some Things You Probably Don’t Know:** I was a member of a Rotary Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team that traveled to northern Sweden in March 2010-(BRRR!); that qualifies me as a Rotary Foundation alumna!

**COVID-19 Activities:** Working from home, video conferencing.



*(Clockwise from top right)*

*\*Performing as Mary Poppins*

*\*With husband at Flossingburg Concentration Memorial in Bavaria*

*\*In the role of Marilyn Monroe with the Marilyn cut-out*

*\*Playbill for Curtains*

*\*With daughter Melina who is now grown & who our club sponsored in RYLA a few years ago*





## Rotaripost

Judy Bellew  
Executive Director  
P.O. Box 380  
Shreveport, LA 71162



Cell Phone: 318-294-8385  
shreveportrotary@gmail.com  
[www.rotaryclubofshreveport.org](http://www.rotaryclubofshreveport.org)

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

Follow us on Facebook



### Zoom Meeting Attendance

May 7, 2020—68 Attending

May 14, 2020—64 Attending

May 21, 2020—59 Attending

May 28, 2020 - 71 Attending

May 5, 2020—61 Attending

We enjoy having Rotarian guests from  
local clubs as well as Texas and Missis-  
sippi clubs!

### Upcoming Programs

May 19, 2020

**Caddo Lake Institute**  
**Laura-Ashley Overdyke**  
**ZOOM On-Line Meeting**

## May Club Anniversaries

\*PHF +Past President ♦Major Donor  
(includes *PS* prior service in this or other clubs)

45 years	John Cox*, Bob Neff*
44 years	Hoyt Bain*, Jim Echterhoff
42 years	Jim Hill*
41 years	John Parsons*
31 years	Clovis Burch*, Andy Shehee*
26 years	Leslie Quinn* <i>PS</i>
24 years	Sue Lee*, Jeff Clark*
22 years	Vernon Chance*
19 years	Lawrence Calhoun♦, Charlotte Jones*, Mark Medicus* Delbert Chumley*
17 years	Renee Petree*
15 years	Reggie Abrams*+
9 years	Rick Holland
8 years	Greg Lott*
7 years	Rodney Ellis* <i>PS</i>
6 years	Hardy Foreman*
4 years	Lawrence Brandon*
3 years	David Wimberly*
2 years	Jim Kowalski
1 year	Jim Malsch, Erika Wysong