



Rotaripost

NOON — 12:00
Meeting
September
28,
2021

Keynote

Red River Revel Is Back!



The **Red River Revel Arts Festival** began in 1976 as the Junior League of Shreveport's Bicentennial gift to the citizens of the region. From traditional Cajun cuisine to deep-rooted music and hand-crafted art, the Revel offers a vast experience through activities, entertainment, food and local traditions.

The Red River Revel is administered by a Governing Board of 21 members representing the sponsors and the general community. It is facilitated by an Executive Director, a Festival Production Committee of 9, and 250 volunteer Chairmen. Additionally 2,500 community volunteers help implement the festival. The Revel features fine arts, food booths run by non-profit organizations, arts education programs, exhibits, and music and performing arts programs on multiple outdoor stages.

Michael Ostendorff serves as the current President of the Governing Board for the Red River Revel Arts Festival. He has been an active volunteer on various committees of the Revel since 2006. Ostendorff is the current Director of Sales & Marketing for VC Experts and Lagniappe Labs, both financial technology companies based in Shreveport that provide data and analytics to the global Private Equity & Venture Capital Industries.

Michael and his wife Amy are the proud parents of two daughters and are active members of First Baptist Church of Shreveport where Michael plays percussion.



Tuesday,
12:00 Noon

Historical Start
12:13 p.m.

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

Rotarians
Serving Others

Lunch Money John Tuggle

Raffle Tickets Kim Green

Invocation Jeffrey Kerst

Zoom Operator Jeffrey Kerst

Greeter - Scanner Meg Goorley

Hybrid Meetings

We will continue to offer hybrid meetings (in-person and Zoom). Here is the Zoom recurring invite that can be used for meetings. 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: September 28, 2021—12:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83836609051?pwd=VG1xbUFL0ILSGIwVVNEM3kzL0dGZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 3660 9051
Passcode: 870740




Last Week's Program

Senator Barrow Peacock shared information and insight into the constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot for the November 13, 2021 election.

Review the video of his presentation at this Facebook [link](#).

At right is one of the handouts from his presentation.


 LOUISIANA'S COMEBACK STORY BEGINS WITH
The Louisiana Tax Simplification Package

This package is the first step towards simplifying our tax code to make Louisiana more competitive with our neighboring states. In exchange for lower income tax rates on citizens and businesses, the plan removes the federal income tax deduction and caps income tax rates in the Constitution. The removal of the federal income tax deduction provides stability for citizens and state government alike, eliminating wild swings caused by federal tax changes. In addition to the income tax legislative changes, the plan would begin the elimination and phase out of the corporate franchise tax. Finally, to ensure that this plan doesn't initiate the state's coffers, revenue triggers will automatically lower our rates to keep this plan revenue neutral in coming years while spurring continued economic growth.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SB 159

- Caps the individual income tax rate at 4.75%
- Removes guaranteed deduction for federal income taxes paid from the constitution

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX HB 278

- Creates the lowest personal income tax rate in the south of those that levy the tax
- Creates a trigger that lowers rates automatically as economy and tax revenue grows
- Eliminates the deduction for federal income taxes paid

FRANCHISE TAX SB 161

- Immediately eliminates franchise tax on all capital up to \$300,000, removing tax for 85% of filers
- Reduces rate for capital above \$300,000 from .3% to .275%
- Creates a trigger that lowers rate automatically as economy and tax revenue grows

CORPORATE INCOME TAX HB 292

- Collapses brackets and lowers rates for all corporations
- Eliminates the deduction for federal income taxes paid
- Collapses brackets from five to three rates

4%	\$0-\$100K	2.5%
5%	\$100-\$100K	3.5%
6%	\$100K-\$100K	4.5%
7%	\$100K	5.5%
8%	\$100K	6.5%

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SIGN UP FOR THIS SPOT!

Melissa Ricou serves as the Director of Business Development at Holy Angels Residential Facility. She began working there after serving as the Executive Director of the Youth Enrichment Program for 21 years.

Melissa shared that she loves the staff and residents at Holy Angels and enjoys being able to drive up to such a beautiful campus each day.

A Shreveport native, Melissa graduated from St. Vincent Academy and then made her way to SMU in Dallas. She spent 10 years working in advertising in both Dallas and Houston before she made her way back home.

Melissa is a second generation Rotarian and many of our members will recall her mom Harvey Ann Leimbrook's time in our club from 2001-2011.

Her most cherished role is being a mother to three children—two daughters and a son. Fun facts about Melissa: she parasailed onto a beach in Mexico and hugged a stingray in the Caribbean. No, she never skydived into a field in Missouri!

Melissa joined our club in March 2021, has volunteered at Common Ground and now chairs our Common Ground service project. She is developing a service day there to back the Rotary bags with books and Halloween goodies for children at Adkins Elementary School. [Contact her](#) if you would like to participate.



(Left) Melissa at the Grand Canyon (pre-COVID).

New Members Introduced

Erica McCain has been the Executive Director for Dress For Success since April 2018. She brings over 11 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. She was the 2014 National Philanthropy Day Chair for North Louisiana, an event that recognizes leading philanthropists in the area. This year she was an honoree for Minority Business Opportunity Awards Nonprofit Professional of the Year.

She is very passionate about women's issues having worked at a rape crisis center in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada prior to moving back to Louisiana. In addition to working in the nonprofit sector, Erica owns a trucking company with a fleet of over the road power only units.

A native of Shreveport, she received her B.A. and M.A. from Southern University-Baton Rouge and a Certification in Nonprofit Management with emphasis on philanthropy from Texas A&M University.

Erica's classification is Associations, Charitable & Service and her proposer and endorser are Dianne Clark and Vernie Howard.



Dianne Clark, President Lawrence and Erica McCain.



Brent Upshaw, President Lawrence and Donna Johnson

Brent Upshaw is the CEO of Grind Capital. Grind Capital is the venture arm of InvesTech Enterprises, whose portfolio holdings include commercial real estate, service and emerging technology companies, where Brent is one of four principals.

He attended LA Tech and graduated from ULM with BBAs in both marketing and risk management. He started his career in traditional private equity and moved to the area to work for Praeses in GovTech in 2012 where he spent three years in business development before going back to investment, venturing out on his own in 2015.

Brent is and has been a loyal sponsor, donor and community service partner to the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the local and state level, as well as with the Louisiana Dept. of Veterans Affairs. He was recognized in 2019 and 2020 by Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser's office for outstanding service to the veteran and entrepreneurial communities with which he works throughout the State.

Donna Johnson and Gard Wayt are his proposer and endorser and his classification is Business, Investments. As President Lawrence pointed out, it's always nice to see a red badge member propose a new member!

A Returning Member

Dr. Staughton Jennings was re-introduced by his proposer Gard Wayt on Tuesday. Staughton has been CEO of Linwood Public Charter School since 2016 where he has grown the number of students from 550 to over 1,100. He received his bachelors and masters degrees from Jackson State. He then earned his Ph.D. in executive leadership from Lincoln Memorial University in TN.

Staughton began his career in 1990 as a classroom teacher. He has become a specialist in closing the academic achievement gaps in Georgia, South Louisiana and now our community.

He and his wife have two children in college, both on full scholarships. Staughton was a prior member of our club from 2018-2020. His proposer is Gard Wayt and endorser is Nancy Alexander.

*Staughton Jennings, President
Lawrence and Gard Wayt.*



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Unless written objection is received within seven days,
there will be added to the membership of

Rotary Club of Shreveport

the following:

Taylor Jamison

Executive Director
Strategic Action Council

Classification

Associations, Business & Government

Proposed by

Dr. Gayle Flowers & Dr. Tim Magner



Last Week!

1—(Guest) Alicia Gehrls with Cynthia Franklin.

2—Katherine Dorroh with her guest Connor Hennessey.

3—Verni Howard with her guest Chris Rhodes.

4—(Guest) Chuck Meredith, (Guest) Greg Morrison with Rotarians Gard Wayt and Staughton Jennings.



And more!
And more!

1—Staughton Jennings with his 3 guests—Shirley Pierson, Tara Sealy and Letisha William.

2—Carl Thibodeaux at the raffle ticket table.

Upcoming Programs

October 5, 2021—Chris Brown, Centenary College—History of Shreveport Music

October 12, 2021—Jon Lowe, Andy Shehee, Liz Swaine, David Ogletree—Livestock Auction

October 19, 2021—Dr. John Vancherie, LSUHSC—Polio (Iron Lung Display)

October 26, 2021—Rick Wedell, RFG Advisory Group

November 2, 2021—Dr. Gayle Flowers, NWLA Procurement Technical Assistance Center

November 9, 2021—Colonel Lee Ellis, USAF (retired) - Veterans Day

November 16, 2021—Teddy Allen & JJ, Sports in Shreveport

November 23, 2021—Dr. Kevin Murnane, LSUHSC research

November 30, 2021—Dianne Clark, Rotary Leadership Institute

December 7, 2021—Joshua Velasquez, Dept. of Homeland Security



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

Follow us on Facebook



Raffle Winners Last Week

TRF Raffle—Mark Snow

*Thank you for your donation to The Rotary Foundation.
This applies toward your Paul Harris Fellowship*

Plant from Rose-Neath Florist—

Lawrence Calhoun

Eggs from Andy Shehee's hens—

Robert McGowen, James Blewett & Ken Krueger

Upcoming In-Person (Hilton Restaurant) and Zoom Program October 5, 2021

Chris Brown
Centenary College
History of Shreveport Music

Rotary District 6190 District Conference

November 5-6, 2021
Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA

Details:

Historic Hotel Bentley room rate \$109

Friday night: social and dinner

Saturday: breakfast, lunch and sessions

Ends at 3 p.m.

More information to follow. Let Judy Bellew
know if you plan to attend.



Ready for liftoff?!!

June 4-8, 2022

George R. Brown Convention Center

Register and secure your hotel accommodations at [this web site](#). Several of our club members have already registered.

Hotel rooms will sell out quickly. If you even think you want to attend, go ahead and reserve your hotel room so you aren't too far from the convention center. As always, Rotary will provide free shuttle service from the hotels to the convention center.

Let Judy know if you plan to attend. Ask any of our members who have attended an international convention about their experience!